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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15TH 2011

'INSPIRATIONAL!'

Headteacher is honoured by the local community

by TIM CHAPMAN

'INSPIRATIONAL' – that was the recurring theme as people from the community paid tribute at Barry Comprehensive School to popular, retiring headteacher Mr David Swallow.

Fourteen years ago, he made the decision to leave his native north of England, where he had been the headmaster of a school in Manchester, to take a headship in Barry.

It is testimony to his work in that time that a special concert held in the main hall was attended by a packed audience, which included pupils past and present, teaching colleagues, governors, community leaders – and, of course, the special guests – Mr Swallow, his wife Claire, and their three sons Ben, Elliot and Guy.

Mr Swallow told the audience that the family's decision to relocate to Barry in the late 1990s was taken after a visit to the town, including a memorable visit to the beach at Barry Island.

He faced the task of motivating a school which had seen almost 30 short-term exclusions just a couple of months before his arrival.

Despite an inauspicious start, with a roof leaking in the lower school leading to a flood, he set about transforming the school's future.

It won the title for 'Most Improved School in Wales' for three consecutive years, and an Estyn report described its results as 'dramatic'. In 1999, 24 per cent of the pupils achieved five or more A*–C grades, which grew to 73 per cent by 2008!

In 2003, Mr Swallow's work was recognised with the award of an OBE for services to education.

He insisted that the improvements had only been possible because of a talented teaching staff and a team that helped to move things forward.

He told the assembled audience: "Everybody else has done this – I have been part of the journey."

However, those who paid tribute to him during the evening were emphatic that he had been instrumental in the school's successes over the last decade and more.

The chair of governors, Mr Matthew Griffiths, told The GEM: "What has happened over the last 13 years has been a transformation.

"David has made an immense contribution to the school and the community. He has led, motivated, and inspired pupils, staff, parents, and even governors.

"We will miss him a lot, but I'm confident his legacy will take us forward."

Before the concert began, a number of tributes were paid to his work.

Mr Griffiths' fellow governor, Kath Beaudette, pointed out that without Mr Swallow's contribution to the school, a lot of the achievements in recent years might never have happened.

Jenny Ford, who takes on the role of headteacher for the next two terms, highlighted Mr Swallow's mischievous sense of humour; his insistence "it's not about me" – and that the strategy was all about the good of the school.

She said his leadership had passed on the school motto '*opportunity to succeed*' to countless students.

Head boy Michael Walker said: "Mr Swallow has an incredible work ethic and dedication. He knows every child's name and makes us feel valued.

"He cares for the students, no matter what their family background. If you have a problem, his door is always open.

"On behalf of the students, I'd like to thank him for making it such an enjoyable experience.

"You have had such an impact on our lives – thank you."

The headgirl, Hannah Parker, said he had a dedication to the pupils that was "heart-warming" and enabled them to reach their goals and potential.

Vale AM Jane Hutt told Mr Swallow and the audience: "The town of Barry has benefited from you being the headteacher for the last 14 years.

"Everywhere I go, people refer to 'that wonderful David Swallow – he has made such a difference to the town and the Vale'.

"Recently, I was able to bring the Minister, Leighton Andrews, who was born in Barry himself, on a visit to the school, and the next day he told me: 'It was a remarkable visit'.

"You have been an inspiring leader in education in Wales."

(See page 18 for more tributes, and photographs of the event).

Little angels at Gwenfo!

PARENTS and grandparents at Gwenfo Primary School were entertained by Key Stage-1 pupils, who staged their Christmas Nativity show.

A school spokeswoman said: "Their lovely singing voices and fantastic costumes made a very festive afternoon for all."

Spate of crashes on M4

POLICE are warning motorists, after there was a spate of crashes on the M4 during a hailstorm.

In just one hour, from 11.15pm on Tuesday, December 13, there were 10 crashes between Coryton (junction 32) and Pencoed (junction 35).

Roads Policing Inspector Jason Stroud said: "Thankfully, only a handful of people involved in the incidents on the M4 sustained minor injuries, but it is important that drivers and cyclists remain vigilant to prevent anything serious occurring.

"It can take twice as long to stop your vehicle in rain and icy conditions, so motorists should maintain a safe distance from the vehicle ahead and ensure they are using their lights."

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Two GEM articles that caught the eye

READING a recent issue of The GEM, I was particularly interested in two articles entitled 'Poignant link with Bloody April 1917' and 'Wartime assault that made the headlines.'

The first, of course, dealt with the First World War and, *inter alia*, details the sad demise of Dan Davies at the guns of Von Richthofen.

In column three, however, an error occurs. the RWF (Royal Welch Fusiliers) should be spelt with a 'c' as in 'Welch' and not the normal spelling 'Welsh'.

This is an historical anomaly peculiar to the RWF: I should know as my grandfather, uncles, brother and others have served in this famous regiment and my mother was born into the Regiment at High Town Barracks, Wrexham in 1908.

Secondly, the other article refers to a talk given to Barry Men's Forum by Mr Glenn Booker, in which he referred to a 1944 rape on the Sully Camp by two GIs, subsequently given lengthy prison sentences.

This is intriguing, as I recall reading many years ago of the discovery of a skeleton on the Atlantic Trading Estate, formerly occupied by the American forces, which was identified as belonging to a GI who had been convicted of the offence of rape and executed there.

Was this another incident, or a case of mistaken identity?

Christopher Short,
Barry.

'Regeneration board could do better for Barry

I FEEL I must respond to the points made last week by Paul Haley, regarding the regeneration of Barry.

Firstly, I welcome the Welsh Government's decision to fund regeneration in Barry to the tune of £9million, which I think is fantastic.

It is now important that suitable schemes are identified and that the money is spent wisely in areas of the greatest need and on worthwhile projects.

However, I am disappointed that in appointing new members to the regeneration board, the Welsh Government has not included elected Barry councillors.

I believe this is totally wrong as it bypasses democracy.

Mr Haley refers to the so called art in the form of the bollards at Thompson Street. He points out that the Welsh Government insists that some of the development money must be spent on art which is okay, but how many people think that these bollards are actually art?

I can assure him that not many people think the bollards are art, but actually are a waste of money.

He then goes on to criticise me personally about how I feel the decision to spend £30,000 on bollards was a waste of money.

Well, I am very sorry Mr Haley, but I am just being honest and reflecting the general opinion of the residents of the town, who are outraged that money could have been wasted in such a way.

I certainly hope that in future mistakes like this are not repeated and that the board learns from this and actually deliver projects that the people of Barry want.

Coun Richard Bertin,
Barry.

(Please see story on page 22).

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'TIME TO CLAMP DOWN ON THE METAL THIEVES'

THE problem of metal thefts is blighting all our communities – and things are just getting worse!

South Wales Police have seen a dramatic increase over the past year; the NHS, councils, churches and residents are all facing massive bills when having to replace stolen items after falling victim to one of these thefts.

Following my request for the issue of metal thefts to be considered by the Vale Council, I am glad to inform your readers that I have since received the support of the Vale public protection scrutiny committee and its controlling cabinet, in my campaign to support legislation which will make scrap dealers use a cashless, payment system – and to record proof of identity and photograph all of the street sellers of scrap metal.

I also called on the council to give its support to a private member's bill currently going before Parliament sponsored by Labour MP Graham Jones, which will cover the issues concerning metal thefts.

Figures recently obtained by BBC Wales, suggest that thefts have cost Welsh councils alone, almost £680,000 this year – more than double the previous year.

I want to see all scrap merchants paid by cheque or bank transfer, asked for ID and also a digital photo to be taken of the seller.

That way, all sellers of scrap metal can be traced easily and made accountable.

To sign the national petition in support of Graham Jones' private member's bill, log onto: *www.epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/21165*.

Coun Rob Curtis,
Barry.

'Curtail events that bring town to a halt'

I SUSPECT that many Cowbridge residents will sympathise with the views expressed by your anonymous correspondent regarding the traffic chaos caused by the reindeer parade, but not only on health and safety grounds.

The town is brought to a standstill on at least two occasions, the reindeer parade and the Food and Drink Festival.

Although these are valuable cash cows and useful publicity events, they do prevent people from moving freely in and out of the town, and the elderly and those with limited mobility who require to park in the main street.

At the risk of sounding curmudgeonly, is it not the time to call a halt to any increase in the number of these events?

There is now also a Literary Festival, a Christmas Tree Festival and a call for a Folk Festival – in addition to a proposed Christmas Cake Festival for December 2012!

D W Gerrard,
Cowbridge.

TURNING A BLIND EYE?

FOLLOWING a visit to Holton Road, Barry, I have to say I am mighty impressed by the new development for book handling at the library in Barry; also the Christmas tree is very impressive outside of the library.

Before going in there, I saw three Community Support Officers having a chat on the square.

One of these officers earlier on was walking with a member of the South Wales Police, past the Nat West bank.

There are always cars and lorries parked there in the morning, but on this occasion, there was a Range Rover with its engine running, parked on the pavement outside of the bank.

The driver did not have a mask on. or have a bag with 'swag' written on the side of it, but surely four officers could have banded together and either told him to shut his engine off, or to get off the pavement?

Paul Blanchard,
Barry.

Christmas cracker of a concert..!

AS a governor of Colcot Primary School, I was fortunate to receive an invitation to their Christmas concert – and what a wonderful evening of entertainment I was treated to.

The theme for the evening was 'A Creepy Crawly Christmas' and the songs, acting and costumes were an absolute tribute to the children, teachers and parents who had put in so much hard work to make the concert a success.

I really loved seeing the happiness on the face of all the children, who thoroughly enjoyed their part in the show, whether they were a ladybird, a butterfly or a flea!

The concept may sound strange, but the story really did work and managed to carry the Christmas message at the same time.

So, thank you to everyone who took part in the production, both on stage and behind the scenes, and a big thank you for my invitation.

Coun Claire Curtis,
Barry Town Council

An open letter...

Dear Lithuania and Estonia,

If Frau Merkel gets her way then, before your own parliaments can discuss them, you will soon have to have your national budgets approved by faceless, unelected people in Brussels.

Is this what you had in mind when you got out from under Soviet Russia?

Or did you, too, think perhaps that you were joining just a Common Market?

You might have taken some comfort from this arrangement if your inquisitor had had its own accounts approved, even just once, in the last 17 years.

You had better do as you are told, though, or you will find your democratically elected governments replaced for you before your very eyes,

R.Bradshaw,
Cowbridge.

PS. Croatia - are you really sure this is a good idea?

Crossing patrols: 'council's silence'

I WAS interested to receive information from Jill Davies, Chair of Dinas Powys Infants School, that the school crossing patrols, which were under threat, have been given what seems to be a stay of execution, for at least 20 months.

I was also grateful to Jill Davies, because the councillors on the Vale have not been kept informed about this timescale and there have been no reports to the council since the cabinet decided in June 2011 to have a review, and the Call–in to Scrutiny in July 2011.

So much for openness and transparency – or is it that the Conservative–controlled council did not want to raise this very emotive subject again?

Coun Neil Moore,
Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council
(Labour councillor for Cadoc Ward)

British Legion thanks The GEM

THANK you, most sincerely, for your £150 contribution to the Poppy Appeal. The Appeal is the major single source of revenue for the Royal British Legion's Benevolent Fund.

Each year, more people come to the Legion for help and the cost of that help is continually increasing. Daily we see and read of young Servicemen and women employed in peacekeeping duties in many parts of the world, often in considerable danger, and this means that there will always be a need to provide help for them and their dependants, when they themselves no longer can.

That is why it is so important that the Legion can continue with its vital work. Thank you on behalf of those who will now benefit from your support.

Nick Buckley,
(Head of Poppy Appeal)
Royal British Legion,
Aylesford

Drop-In Centre refurbishment is welcomed

OVER the past 11 years, the support I have received from the Drop-In Centre, covering many different problems, has been appreciated, and I applaud the Drop-In Centre's confidentiality policy and the voluntary work they do for our community.

I am pleased that the new premises in Castleland Community Centre are easier to access for everyone on the Thompson Street estate.

The Drop-In Centre and the community centre have always been warm and welcoming for everyone and the refurbishment will make such a difference to all of us who use the centre.

I look forward to seeing the centre when finished and I wish you all good luck!

Gwyneth Phillips,
Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL DECEMBER 22)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
15 Thur	09.08	9.5	21.31	9.1
16 Fri	09.50	9.3	22.16	8.9
17 Sat	10.38	9.0	23.09	8.6
18 Sun	11.33	8.8		
19 Mon	00.09	8.4	12.39	8.6
20 Tues	01.22	8.3	13.52	8.6
21 Wed	02.36	8.5	15.03	8.9
22 Thur	03.41	9.0	16.11	9.2

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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INJURED IZZY FINDS A LOVING FAMILY HOME!

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

THE family who helped to rescue a Staffordshire bull terrier, which had been dumped in a drain and had suffered fractures to the jaw, have adopted her!

Izzy, the black and white Staff, was crying out for help from the drain in Castleland Street and was heard by Simon Evans and Adam Lee, who were working in the hall of a nearby house.

Simon's partner, Bev Dillon, explained: "Simon and Adam heard the dog crying and a group of children called them over because it was stuck.

"Adam had to fetch a crowbar to lift up the lid of the drain."

Simon said: "Adam shone a light into the darkness and all he saw was her jaw, so he wasn't going to pull her out!

"She jumped out herself, was wagging her tail and then held out her paw!"

The family took Izzy to Maesglas Vets in Bridgend for treatment where she was also given a name by the nurses.

Izzy had two fractures to the jaw and had to have two teeth taken out. She was fed using a syringe.

Bev said: 'The staff at the vets were brilliant."

People in Barry were left shocked at the callous actions of the person, or people, respon sible.

She is now back with the family and has already fallen in love with the couple's two children Jessica (18) and Josh (10).

Simon said: "She is on anti-inflammatory tablets and painkillers twice a day, and may need more treatment in the future.

"We are having to mash up her food so she can eat it."

The vets liaised with the council, enabling Bev and Simon to take Izzy on as they had pledged to be responsible for any bills arising from treatment. However, the couple have been very grateful to people who have offered financial contributions, because Izzy may need more treatment in the coming weeks.

Bev said: "We want to thank Jo and all the staff at Track 2000 for donations to Izzy's treatment and for providing her with a bed.

"Steve Lane and Pets R Us has also been collecting donations towards treatment costs so we'd like to thank him too.

"A woman in Caerphilly is even giving Izzy a doggy hamper," Bev added.

• ***Anyone with information on who was responsible for the ill-treatment of Izzy can contact the dog warden on 01446 700111, or the RSPCA cruelty line on 0300 1234 999.***

LEFT:
A big lick as a thank you! Izzy loves being with Josh and Jessica, and is already a big part of the family.

'Please support fundraiser for Harvey Hudson'

THE organisers of an event to support Harvey Hudson, whose mum Tara Mackie, was tragically killed in a road accident in October, have appealed to the public to support a fundraiser tomorrow night (December 16) at Barry Island Sports and Social Club.

Daniel James, a friend of Tara, who is helping to publicise the event, told The GEM: "We are hoping to raise money for 'The Harvey Hudson Fund'.

"Harvey is three years old and is now without his mother. Tara was only 25 when she was killed in a road accident on Cardiff Road between Macdonalds and Dinas Powys in October.

"The fundraiser is at Barry Island Sports and Social Club tomorrow night and starts at 7.30pm.

"There will be a disco and a raffle with lots of great prizes. Tickets are £5 and people can pay on the door.

"If people need more information, they can contact me on my mobile which is 07788251154.

"There will be an opportunity to buy raffle tickets on the night."

ABOVE:
Tara with Harvey.

BARRY VOLUNTEER SHORTLISTED FOR THE PDSA NATIONAL CHARITY AWARDS

A MAN from Barry who broke his back in an accident 12 years ago, has found a new lease of life – after volunteering for veterinary charity PDSA.

Peter Mayne, who donates up to 40 hours a week at the charity shop in Holton Road, has been shortlisted in PDSA's Annual Volunteer Awards, for his outstanding passion and commitment to the cause.

Peter is up against three other hopefuls in the 'New Volunteer of the Year' award. He gives up his free time to help at PDSA's busy store in Barry, which raises vital funds for local sick and injured pets.

The grandfather-of-three fractured his back and elbow after falling off a ladder while working on Cardiff docks in 1999.

His wife Sue, who is PDSA store manager in Barry, says Peter is usually shy but his work for the charity has given him a zest for life and brought him out of his shell.

PDSA area retail manager, Paul Gibbs, who nominated Peter, said: "Peter volunteers at the PDSA store every day even though he had a serious accident where he fractured his lower back, and he's also diabetic. It's great to hear that PDSA has given him a reason to get up in the morning and has given him a purpose. He truly deserves this recognition for his efforts."

Peter said he loved volunteering for PDSA and left another voluntary role in order to devote more time to the cause.

He explained: "Since I broke my back, I have not been able to hold down a paid job for one reason or another, so I started volunteering at the shop my wife manages.

"I was quite chuffed to get nominated and it was such a surprise. I love everything about volunteering for PDSA, from meeting the customers and catching up with the regulars. And we have such a good laugh, the volunteers and the staff are brilliant. It's just really enjoyable, and I'd recommend it to anyone."

The PDSA Volunteer Awards are now in their ninth year and are supported by Volunteering England and Pets at Home. The shrtlisted volunteers will be judged on their commitment to PDSA and enthusiasm for the roles and the winners will be announced in the New Year.

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2 FREE CANS OF SOFT DRINK ON COLLECTION
MD3 • MAHARAJA MEAL DEAL £35.95
A luxurious meal for 4: • Any 4 Starters* • Any 4 Mains* • 4 Pulao Rice • 2 Nan Bread • 2 Side Dishes
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Murgh Kohlapuri (s) £5.95
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Mango Delight (n) £5.95
Chicken tikka in a mild almond nut analphonso mango flavoured sauce.
Subz Miloni (v) £4.95
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(n) contains nuts (s) Spicy (v) vegetarian

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£47,000 facelift for Merchant Navy memorial

Landmark symbol is sent away for TLC...

A Barry landmark is about to disappear from its home at the front of the Civic Offices on Holton Road while it undergoes major restoration work.

The Merchant Navy memorial, is to be returned to its former glory and weather-proofed for generations to come.

The Vale Council has commissioned a specialist company to renovate the 15-year-old Portland stone structure.

Work was due to start on Monday (December 12) to dismantle the limestone monument, which was recently the focus of commemorations for the 100th anniversary of Remembrance Sunday.

A specialist contractor is to take the statue apart, after which it will be shipped off to a Cardiff stonemason's yard, to dry out.

A concrete core, which will be left behind in front of the civic offices, is to be fenced off for safety reasons.

The work is to cost around £47,000, excluding fees and is likely to take around 20 weeks.

Vale Council leader, Coun Gordon Kemp said: "I'm pleased we are finally able to send the monument for cleaning and repair, to return it to the pristine state it once was.

"It's important we carry out this work in order to honour the merchant sailors of the Vale, in whose memory the monument was erected."

Cardiff-based Dawson Stone Masonry is to undertake the renovation work.

Managing director, Dave Dawson, said: "It will be taken to our yard, desalinated and then restored. We're going to introduce one or two weathering features, to stop the weather hanging on it.

It's been getting quite a lot of weather but not a lot of sunshine.

"When limestone dries out, it's resilient. But the construction of this monument is allowing the wet to stay. Lots of salts have built up in it.

Once it is returned, it should be weather-proof."

Slight modifications to the monument will be made to allow rain to run off and metal hooks added as a means of anchoring wreaths to the structure.

Conservation architect, Martin Killick, who has designed the weatherproofing features, added: "It hasn't been shedding water, partly due to its design.

"Water has been standing on its various ledges and it's not being shed away from the memorial.

"Once it's finished, you'll barely be able to tell the difference."

Plaques which list the names of merchant seamen from the Vale who were killed during conflict will be replaced by stainless steel versions, updated to include around 100 people.

Jim Greenway, 78, chairman of the Merchant Navy Association in Barry, said: "We appreciate that this work is being done and will now come under the council's buildings maintenance programme.

"And we're glad we are being kept informed about what's taking place. We're happy with what we are being told."

The area of the memorial will be hoarded off for safety reasons and to protect the concrete core.

Council officers were keen for the monument to remain in situ for Remembrance Sunday ceremonies to take place before it was removed from in front of the Vale Council's offices.

The Merchant Navy memorial.
(See Vale Council leader's column on page 7).

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COLCOT PUPILS GO DICKENSIAN!

Pupils dress up in Victorian costume in Devizes

CHILDREN from Colcot Primary School recently visited Braeside Education Centre in Devizes – as part of a Dickensian writing experience. They were joined by children from other primary schools in the Vale.

The focus of the two–day adventure was to take part in a range of experiences that would help stimulate and promote writing.

The children were immersed in the Dickensian spirit of things! They completed tasks such as creating a Victorian Theatre Show, learning Victorian games, cooking a Victorian Sponge and creating traditional Victorian decorations.

They were also given a rendition of *'A Christmas Carol'* from Roger Day, children's author.

After sampling traditional mince pies the children set about transforming the canteen into a Victorian Banqueting Hall ready for the evening's Christmas feast.

The children were asked to write notes about their experiences from the day, dressed in Victorian costume, ready for the meal.

A surprise guest, Mr Scrooge, was found sleeping in the house and was keen to share his experiences of the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future.

There was lots of carolling before the sleepy writers headed off to bed.

The following morning, the children completed stories, using all of the experiences of the past day as their stimulus. **CB**

AM thanks posties for their Christmas efforts

PICTURED: Jane Hutt AM with Wayne Jones and Manager Jim Davies.

VALE AM, Jane Hutt, visited the Royal Mail Sorting office at Kendrick Road Barry to thank staff for their hard work all year round, but particularly at Christmas.

She said: "The Royal Mail provides a wonderful service to its customers, working through all weathers to deliver our post. It was good to meet Wayne Jones, who served in the marines and is now working for the postal service in the Barry area and enjoying his new career."

Colcot event supports hospice

A NEW Barry fundraising group has been formed to help the Marie Curie hospice in Penarth.

This Saturday (December 17), the group holds its first fundraising event, in Colcot Community Centre in Barry (12 noon to 3pm, adult admission 50p).

A spokeswoman said: "There will be lots of fun things to do, and also stalls including bric-a-brac, jewellery, tombola, baby goods, face painting, a raffle, and appaerances by some of the children's favourite cartoon characters."

EGG RACE

AT the ford in Llancarfan after the annual tug-of-war on Boxing Day, the duck egg race takes place in aid of St Cadoc's Church.

First prize £75; second £50; third £25.

Duck egg numbers are available now at the Fox and Hounds, Llancarfan for a donation of £1.

Community company withdraws from Island paddling pool venture

A BID to rebuild the paddling pool at Whitmore Bay, Barry Island has been abandoned by volunteers who claim the Vale Council wanted to add an estimated £85,000 to the costs of the scheme.

by TIM CHAPMAN

Volunteers wanted to restore the resort's tidal pool for local children and to encourage tourism, but said they had been "worn down" by the council.

The Vale Council insisted it had always supported the project, pointing out that a cabinet report had even endorsed it, subject to suitable funding being identified.

A council officer explained that the issue of 'match funding' had been a key issue in the saga.

However, Howard Metcalfe, chair of the community interest company @BarryIsland, set up to help regenerate the island, told The GEM: "Every step of the way, the council has put barriers in our way. Rather than asking how they could respond to the wishes of the community to help rebuild the pool, the council has sought to frustrate us.

"By insisting that it has no responsibility for building or running the pool, the council relied on volunteers to make it happen.

"The community interest company made a bid to the Welsh Government's Regeneration Board for funding to build the pool.

"However, council officials insisted that any bid include costs for maintaining the pool and for pulling it down after ten years."

Mr Metcalfe also claimed that when the company asked if the council would include the pool on its own public liability insurance to reduce the premium costs, officials refused.

He went on: "It summed up their approach – they said in public that they would support our efforts but whenever we sought help, they refused."

The company claims that as a result of meeting the council's demands, the cost of the project soared by around £85,000.

It said the Regeneration Board and the council then used the rising costs as a reason for deferring the company's application.

The company said that at further meetings the council had offered to release funding to commission a 'feasibility study', if the volunteers were able to raise additional funding of their own.

However, @BarryIsland said it had decided that the council was not serious about wanting the project to succeed, and that overcoming the council's "obstructions" would result in a poor use of public funds. It had, therefore, decided to withdraw the application.

A spokesman for @BarryIsland insisted: "It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the local authority is not serious about working in partnership with the community.

"There is broad support from right across the Island to restore the pool – from the Island's children to its traders.

"Having endorsed the principle of a tidal paddling pool on Barry Island, the onus is now on the council to make it happen."

'MATCH FUNDING'

The GEM put Mr Metcalfe's comments and those of the company spokesman to the council.

The director of environmental and economic regeneration, Rob Quick, said the council had always been a supporter of the tidal pool scheme:

"A cabinet report was produced endorsing the scheme, subject to funding being made available.

"The proposal has been considered by the Barry Regeneration Area Board. It felt that, in view of the many potential projects under review, that it was important where possible, for projects to bring a reasonable amount of other funding to the table, rather than rely solely upon the Barry Regeneration Area Partnership to fund most, if not all of a particular project.

"Should match funding have been found, the council was willing to look at the issue of insurance costs for the pool in view of the costs to the community interest company (CIC).

"Furthermore, the council would be willing to look again at the requirement for the CIC to have the financial capacity to make the pool safe by filling it in, should the project unfortunately fail at some time in the future.

"The key issue therefore, is match funding for the scheme, a proposal which the council and the Barry Regeneration Area Board had endorsed in principle," Mr Quick added.

@BarryIsland says it still plans to be involved in other community ventures.

Metal thieves force a hospital to cancel 81 local operations

HEALTH chiefs have slammed greedy thieves who stole copper from a generator at University Hospital of Llandough, leading to the cancellation of 81 operations.

Yesterday (Wednesday), they released a statement saying the thieves had put monetary gain before vulnerable members of the community.

Mr Paul Holland, deputy chief executive at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, explained: "The thieves have taken 100 metres of copper cable which connects the generator to the control panel.

"In addition, several short lengths of cable between the generator alternator and the generator isolator, along with metal brackets, have been removed. This renders the generator inoperable.

"In view of the potential risk to patients, the UHB has no option but to suspend scheduled operations."

The hospital said it was working hard to provide a back up system to enable it to resume its normal service as soon as possible."

South Wales Central Assembly Member, Andrew RT Davies, expressed shock and anger at the news.

He said: "How on earth can people stoop so low as to target a hospital in this manner?

"I am stunned and appalled at this news.

"My thoughts are with the patients who have had scheduled operations cancelled now, and who face an anxious time as they wait to find out when their procedures will now take place. "Eight of the cancellations were cancer patients.

"This grotesque act puts the health board in a very difficult situation at a time of year when cold weather already poses its own problems.

"I commend the efforts being made by the hospital and board to get things back to normal as quickly as possible.

"It is also reassuring to hear that the health board will make every effort to fit in as many of the cancelled operations as possible before Christmas," he added.

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'URGENT NEED FOR DONATIONS TO VALE's FOODBANK' – says the Vale AM

SEVEN weeks after the Assembly Member Jane Hutt launched the Vale Foodbank at the Coastlands Family Church in Tennyson Road, Barry, she re-visited the centre to find out how the Foodbank is getting on.

She learned that in the past few weeks, more than 180 people have received food and as she spent time with the volunteers packing food parcels, she gained more information about the rising need for this important project.

The Vale Foodbank is open twice a week, on Mondays, 10am–12 noon and Thursday ,4.30pm–6.30pm, and operates a voucher system in partnership with the statutory and voluntary sector, including the Vale CAB and Social Services, Llamau, Atal-y Fro and Gobaith.

At the Foodbank Centre, free refreshments are given and there is a welcome by trained volunteers who are able to give advice about other sources of help and support to those in need.

ABOVE: The Vale Foodbank is inspiring .

The AM commented: "Food parcels are needed for a variety of reasons, although the most common, are welfare benefits delays and crisis loans being refused by the Department of Work and Pensions.

"Debt and homelessness are also major reasons why a food parcel is needed. The foodbank distributes parcels throughout the Vale, although Barry families are most in need.

"Food parcels have fed people within a vast age range, from very young children through to older members of society, however nearly 30 per cent of packages have been given to under 25-year-olds."

There had been a tremendous response from churches and schools. Since opening, the foodbank has received more than 5,000 kg of donations and the donations keep coming in, but as demand for food parcels increases, more food is urgently needed.

The AM went on: "The Vale Foodbank is an inspiring project and joins a network of foodbanks all over the UK providing food to those in need. The food is given in good faith, is 'in date' and in good condition and is a gift from the foodbank and volunteers at the Coastlands Centre.

"The foodbank needs more supplies urgently and I hope all will respond to this call for UHT milk, fruit juice and 500g sugar. Also, with Christmas approaching the foodbank is aiming to provide a basic food parcel plus some extra treats such as chocolate and mince pies."

To get in touch with the foodbank, call 07973 388906. Volunteers will be available to deal with any queries or requests from 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday and until 6.30pm on Thursdays.

Students have a special eye for business!

ABOVE: Sian Rodgers (17) Callum Oaten (17) and Ben Nicholas (18) all from Barry, Joe Blackley (17) from Newport and Sam Jenkins (18) from Cardiff.

YOUNG people at Ashgrove School in Penarth have an eye for business – they not only designed and decorated the Ash Café, they formed a company to run it.

The students, who have autistic spectrum disorder, have been so successful, they have paid off 20 per cent of their setup loan in five months, with enough left over from profits to pay cash for supplies and fund excursions.

Headteacher, Chris Britten, explained: "It started off because they were catering for events; making cakes and coffees. They've been doing so well, they're able to pay their suppliers in cash and have paid for a three-day trip to London from the proceeds. They're going to Paris in the spring."

The entire operation is run by the students, with support from staff – from stock control to menu choice to dealing with suppliers. They designed the coffee shop from the ground up; from layout design to colour scheme, to devising the menu and undertook training from Coffee Pro to qualify as barristas.

The teens also devised and allocated roles – from advertising manager to operations director – to ensure its smooth running.

Ash Café IT director, Ben Nicholas (18) of Barry, has been offered a job with Costa Coffee, after his barrista training saw him undertake work experience with the coffee shop chain.

He said: "I like getting the drinks ready. I'm hopefully going to get a part-time job with Costa when I go to college next year."

Children show off their enterprise

Pupils get stuck in to Rhws Primary School 'mini–enterprise' week.

PUPILS at Rhws Primary School recently became entrepreneurs during their 'Mini–Enterprise week'.

Children all the way from from Nursery to year–6 made a range of products and games; spending the week creating products, advertising and promoting their products.

The week culminated in the grand 'Christmas fair', in which each class sold their products and the profit for each class was calculated.

They certainly gave Richard Branson a run for his money!

KELSEY BIBEY

Guides' festive sleep-over...

THE 10th Barry Guides recently took part in Christmas crafts and activities, and enjoyed a Christmas movie at a festive sleepover.

Two of the newest Guides also made their promise by the Christmas tree and were welcomed into the unit.

If any women aged 18-65 wish to get involved with the community as their new year's resolution, Guiding is a fun way to do this. Contact www.girlguiding.org.uk /get_involved for details.

RIGHT: The 10th Barry Guides enjoy a Christmas movie.

A SERVICE of carols and readings will be held at Ewenny Priory Church on Sunday, December 18 at 4pm, with St Donat's Chamber Choir, conductor Wendy York. All are welcome. For further details, contact the Venerable Philip Morris on 01656 880108.

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FOLLOW THE (Vale Council) LEADER

'CONGRATULATIONS ON RECYCLING RESPONSE'

by COUN GORDON KEMP
Leader of the Vale Council

MAY I congratulate every Vale resident who participates in our popular mixed (co-mingled) recycling service.

Clearly, each week, many of you are putting out more paper, glass, cans, cardboard and plastics for collection than ever before.

This makes an enormous difference, not just environmentally, but also in helping the council reach Welsh Government targets and avoid potential fines.

Switching to mixed recycling from September 19 this year has also saved the council half a million pounds; with the current market value of good quality dry mixed recyclables, and the very low contamination rates reported, this figure could increase over the months to come.

As you may be aware, all local authorities are required to reach a 52% recycling and composting target by 2012-13.

If Vale residents continue with their excellent recycling efforts, by April 2012 we will have not only reached the target, but exceeded it, a whole year early. Please do everything you can to recycle.

Councillor Geoff Cox, cabinet member for visible and building services and I, often hear from residents how passionate they are about recycling – and see streets full of recycled materials ready for collection and we are very grateful for everyone's efforts.

Our waste management and communications teams have got together to produce some very informative videos about recycling in the Vale. You can see these on the council's website, www.vale-ofglamorgan.gov.uk and on YouTube, www.youtube.com/VOGcouncil

TEMPORARY REMOVAL

ANYONE who has visited the Civic Offices in Barry this week will have noticed that the Merchant Navy memorial is being removed. I know the memorial is a much-loved landmark in Barry and I can reassure residents that its absence will be temporary.

The memorial has fallen victim to the elements over the years and it will now be given some tender loving care and returned to its former glory. We have commissioned a specialist company to renovate the 15-year-old Portland stone structure.

The structure is being dismantled and put into storage to dry out. Once it is thoroughly dry, it will be desalinated and the restoration work will commence.

Some modifications will be made to the structure to ensure that rain runs off it easily in the future.

The architect tells us the changes will be barely noticeable and will ensure that it remains weatherproof for years to come.

The monument plaques that list the names of merchant seamen from the Vale who were killed during conflict will be replaced by stainless steel versions and updated to include the names of a further 100 seamen.

The monument should be back home sometime in the late spring – the exact date will depend on how long it takes for the stone work to dry out.

2011 was not an easy year for local government, but the Vale Council is prepared for the challenges of the coming year and we are ready and willing to do our utmost to ensure a bright future for our county.

May I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Aberthaw's 'Christmas present' to the St John Ambulance

ABERTHAW Power Station commercial manager Dr Mark Picton (above, centre) presents a £500 cheque to Colin Jones, chairman and Anthony French, Deputy Commissioner from St John Council for Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan (on right).

The charity is raising funds to replace an ambulance. Currently it is using an ambulance with a G registration.

"We appreciate the support from the power station and are grateful for the donation," said Mr French.

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Email your local news to
gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Police issue appeal and a warning, as...

WOMAN (86) VICTIM OF BURGLARY

POLICE are appealing for information following a distraction burglary in the Barry area on Wednesday, December 7, when an 86–year–old woman was targeted in her home.

E–fit of one of the suspects.

At about 1.15pm, a man called at Hinchsliff Avenue, purporting to be from the gas board.

After approximately 10 minutes, he left the house. At this point, a second male was seen running away towards Winston Road.

A large quantity of cash and jewellery was later found to be missing, police reported.

The man who entered the house is described as white, aged in his 20s, 5ft 5ins in height, of medium or normal build, with a Barry accent and short dark coloured hair.

The male seen running away is described as being taller, with fair hair and wearing lighter coloured clothing.

Detective Sergeant Julian Kerslake, of Barry CID, said: "An investigation is under way and I would appeal to anyone who recognises the man depicted in the E–fit to come forward.

"I would also like to urge anyone who may have been approached in similar circumstances, to contact the police.

"I want to remind householders not to allow any cold callers into your home and for local residents to look out for elderly or vulnerable neighbours."

• *Contact Barry CID via 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously, on 0800 555 111.*

The Dining Room

~ Traditional dining ~
with a contemporary twist

The Dining Room Barry Island has recruited two new chefs to re-establish the menu.

Our head chef has a London restaurant background, working in both Michelin and Rosette standard establishments. He along with his second chef have devised a menu integrating modern British cuisine with innovative twists on popular British classics, at a very affordable price.

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PENARTH MAN SUFFERED A 'HORRIFIC WOUND' AFTER A KNIFE ATTACK

– CARDIFF CROWN COURT IS TOLD

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

ARMED with a knife, a mentally-ill man carried out an attack in Penarth which resulted in his victim suffering an "horrific wound", Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Leslie Bann plunged the weapon into the neck of neighbour, Paul Britton, whose life was only spared by "the grace of God", said the Recorder of Cardiff, Judge Nicholas Cooke.

Bann was arrested when a police armed response group was called in and officers were forced to taser him, when he began struggling.

Bann (46), of Glebe Street, Penarth, admitted a charge of wounding with intent and was sentenced to be detained in a psychiatric hospital for an indefinite period.

He pleaded not guilty to attempted murder, which was not proceeded with, and it was directed that the charge lie on the file.

The court heard that Mr Britton lost so much blood, up to four litres had to be transfused into him.

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said that Mr Britton at the time had problems with alcohol and was also living in Glebe Street.

On the night of June 21, the two men spent about 20 minutes together smoking and drinking, and then went their separate ways.

A few minutes later, Bann asked to borrow more tobacco.

Mr Trigg said that suddenly Bann lunged at Mr Britton and plunged a knife into his neck.

"Blood spurted from the wound," said Mr Trigg.

Mr Britton managed to get into the garden for help.

This was unavailable, and he returned to the flat where Bann was holding a knife and laughing.

Mr Britton then went to a nearby pub for help. Police later found him outside the premises with a tea towel over his head.

"His clothes were saturated with blood. He was taken to hospital and a vascular surgeon was brought from the Royal Gwent Hospital with a police escort and he was operated upon.

"He had a large cut to the thyroid gland and artery."

"It could easily have been fatal," said the Judge.

Mr Trigg said he was discharged three days later and added: "I'm happy to say he has moved to the Midlands, and is living in a Christian hostel.

"He is free of alcohol and is getting on very well with his life."

The court heard that an armed response group arrested Bann, who told them: "I didn't do it. Just kill me, I want to die."

There was a struggle and he was tasered. He later admitted what he had done, saying: "I heard voices."

Mr Trigg said the attack had had a profound effect on the victim, who now had a visible scar on his neck, which had made his search for work difficult.

Bann, said Mr Trigg, suffered from paranoid schizophrenia.

He was said to have convictions for causing criminal damage, dishonesty and assault.

His counsel Robin Shellard, said that for 10 years, he had struggled with increasing mental health problems and many agencies had attempted to help him.

He would drink too much and not take his medication.

In the days leading up to the attack, his daughter, who Bann described as 'the best daughter in the world', had become more and more concerned about him and attempted to obtain help.

He had become suicidal, agitated, said he heard voices, and his daughter felt he should have been sectioned.

Once, he took 10 times the dose of his medicine and, said Mr Shellard, she felt she had been sent "from pillar to post".

Psychiatrist Dr Peter Williams said for 10 years, Bann had had "challenging difficulties" punctuated by episodic admissions to hospital. There was also heavy and protracted use of alcohol.

The judge said he could not order one, but it would be desirable if there was an inquiry into the events before the stabbing.

He added that he was anxious that there would not be a witchhunt.

The victim, Bann and his family were entitled to have enquiries made, he said.

The judge added that the attack was horrifying, carried out by a man suffering from a terrifying illness, for the person who suffers from it and because of the risk to the public.

It was clear, said the Judge, Bann suffered dangerous hallucinations and he would be detained for as long as was necessary.

Past the kissing gate

– and on to Twyn-yr-odyn

NEWS FROM THE PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

GERAINT and Patch were joined by two walkers for the last in the series of short walks in the Wenvoe area on an overcast morning with some rain at the very beginning.

Leaving the village, the trio followed an old bridleway, which gradually led them uphill and towards St Lythans Downs where at times, especially during summer, the pathways that criss-cross the area can often be confusing.

As the vegetation had receded, they soon found their way across to the footbridge that crosses the A48.

A kissing gate set in a hedge led them into a field which is part of the parkland estate surrounding Coedarhydyglyn.

In the 18th century a building called Old Coedarhydyglyn, meaning 'wood along the glen', stood to the southwest of the present house's walled-garden.

This was demolished when in 1820, the present stone-built Regency villa, which is a privately-owned grade-1 listed building, was built for Llewellyn Traherne, who inherited the estate – which went on to become the Traherne family home.

From the public footpath that they were tramping along, they had the occasional glimpse of the house before passing some pheasant pens and following the path steeply downhill.

They passed through a pretty arboretum, where the specimen trees are planted a good distance apart and each one has a small plaque below giving the tree's Latin name.

Ahead of them lay brilliant views across the open countryside of the pretty Ely valley towards Garth Hill away in the distance and standing at 307-metres, Mynydd y Garth, or The Garth, as it is know locally, somewhat dominates the skyline to the north.

Turning, the trio crossed fields and found a few Welsh Black cattle gathered around one of the stiles. These totally black native cattle with their black-tipped white horns were traditionally bred to produce milk and beef and are suited to graze on rough pasture.

Drovers would herd them from Wales to the English markets at Hereford and Gloucester and would make a good deal of money from their sale, making them a target on their return for highwaymen and bandits.

Despite their horns being perhaps a little off-putting, the cattle were quite happy for the small group to pass through on their way back to the A48.

Reaching the downs once more they joined the narrow path at the rear of the Wenvoe transmitting station, a landmark in the area, which was originally built in 1952 by the BBC to provide VHF television to Wales and the west of England with a second mast being added in 1963.

Both masts were replaced in 1985 and now digital signals are broadcast since the switchover in 2010.

Emerging at the small hamlet of Twyn-yr-odyn, they visited the quarrymen's monument on their way through, before joining the footpath beside the old Whitehall quarry which led them back downhill into Wenvoe village.

On December 17, meet at 10am by the shops at the Murch, Dinas Powys for a 5-mile moderate walk at The Oxhams and Cosmeston Country Park; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278. Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Barry branch of the Royal British Legion salutes the president!

AT the Christmas dinner of the Barry branch of the Royal British Legion recently in the Barry Masonic Hall, a presentation was made to Mr Tim O'Sullivan MBE (far left) on his retirement, as president of the branch.

During his time in office, he has also been welfare officer for the branch.

Tributes to him were paid by Mr John Hobbs, chairman of Barry branch and Mr Keith Harris, who is now taking over from Mr Sullivan as president.

All members wished him a happy retirement and good health.

Tim served in the RAF for a number of years, was later a civil servant in the Welsh Office Cardiff, being awarded the MBE.

Poppy Appeal donations to date totalled £32,398.91. Mr Keith Harris, who has been Appeal Organiser for five years, has retired and now takes over as the new president.

New centre is launched to help people with dementia

TY HAPUS Foundation and Alzheimer's Society, with the support of Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale, have launched a new centre for people with dementia in Barry, which will provide specialist services for younger people with dementia (under 65).

As well as offering daily respite services for people with early onset dementia, Ty Hapus centre also has a café where information, support and activities will be provided to people with dementia of all ages. Day trips, arts and crafts, cooking, music and signing, photography or therapy are some of the services that Alzheimer?s Society staff and volunteers will provide at Ty Hapus.

Justine Pickering, whose mother was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's when she was 55, founded Ty Hapus to raise funds to set up the centre.

She explained: "Ty Hapus will offer dignified and age-appropriate care for people with dementia in a very stimulating atmosphere. It is unique because it will provide specialist services for people with early onset of dementia and their carers."

Ellin Jones, Alzheimer's Society Support Services Manager for Cardiff and the Vale, said: "There are over 5,000 people with dementia in Cardiff and the Vale, with numbers set to rise.

"With this new centre, we hope to reach more people and help them to live well with dementia.

"The centre is really pioneering as it will offer specialised services for early onset of dementia; but also will allow us to provide support and information for older people with dementia and carers."

Ploughing match was big success

THE VALE of Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society held their management committee meeting on December 8 in Penmark, chaired by Andrew Sudley.

A report was given on the first ploughing match to be held in the Vale, which took place in Llanmaes in September. The treasurer reported that it was a great success resulting in a sound balance, but suggested that the committee needs to raise some funds for next year's event, which will be held on September 16.

The site for next year's match has yet to be decided. The chairman hoped that there would be an increase in local competitors for next year's match.

It was noted that The Ferguson Club members are growing in number and entering most ploughing matches in Wales and the Border Counties, in the T20 Class.

Anyone seeking information relating to each of the eight classes for next year's ploughing match should contact the match secretary, Jeremy Jacobs, on 02920 811202.

The chairman proposed that the Society stages a tractor run in late spring to raise funds which will be split between the society and the Ed Evans Foundation brain tumour cancer fund.

The next meeting of the management committee will be held in Penmark on January 19. Information can be obtained from the chairman, Andrew Studley, on 07980 921990, or 01446 781229. **BG**

SPECIAL AWARD FOR LOCAL SCHOOL

Left to right: Teacher Mrs Victoria Halsall, Alun Cairns MP and pupils Chantelle Preece, Arthur Lagua and Chelsea Alazia.

ALUN CAIRNS, MP for the Vale of Glamorgan, recently visited Ysgol Maes Dyfan in Barry to congratulate it on gaining the ICT Mark.

He was welcomed by headteacher Mrs Iorylle Aubrey and staff before meeting pupils.

School choir was in fine voice at Afternoon Club

Murch Junior School choir are pictured, above, entertaining members of the Murch Wednesday Afternoon Club at the Christmas party, with Dinas Powys Community Council Chair, Chris Williams.

MURCH Junior School choir entertained the Wednesday Afternoon Club at their Christmas party with an amazing range of carols.

Led by Mrs Messer, the Deputy Head, the club members were enthralled by the singing by years-5 and 6. Mrs Renee Gannon made the introductions, welcomed all the club members and thanked all who had helped.

The Murchfield hall was full to overflowing, which is a testament to the popularity of the club and the hard work of the committee.

The audience of senior citizens enjoyed every minute of the singing. Chair of the Community Council, Coun Chris Williams was a guest and was impressed by the choir.

The songs included 'All around the world', 'Bethlehem is calling', 'The Holly and the Mistletoe' and 'Jesus is our gift from God.'

Hannah Lewis sang a delightful solo, 'In the bleak midwinter', while traditional carols were not ignored with 'Away in a manger' and 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'.

During the afternoon, Father Christmas (or at least a young version of Father Christmas) gave out presents to the audience!

Elizabeth Millard thanked the children for their excellent singing and wished everyone a happy Christmas. **CF**

Villagers sing carols around Llancarfan Christmas tree

ABOVE:
The Llancarfan Christmas tree proved a great hit with carol singers young and old.

MORE than 100 villagers turned out to sing carols during the lighting of the Llancarfan Christmas tree.

Special guest of honour was Nia Thomas, winner of the Llancarfan Primary School's painting competition, who flicked the switch on the magnificent lights of the Christmas tree, that lit the evening sky.

Jo Ford led the carollers with hearty renditions of favourite Christmas tunes and Claire Williams kept everyone warm with mulled wine, mince pies and treats for the children.

Spokesman John Ford said: "We would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the evening, Paul, Max, Matt, Rich and John for putting up the tree – Thanks must go to the Thomas family for allowing us to use their equipment and the Archibold family who are providing the important power to the lights again this year.

"All funds raised on the evening were donated to the Cerys Potter Memorial Fund."

Friends' party

FRIENDS and neighbours held a Christmas party at Cwm Talwg Community Centre in Barry, when more than 50 people enjoyed a traditional four-course lunch, followed by tea and coffee and mince pies.

Entertainment was provided by Changing Scene Theatre Company, who gave an hour of music, song and dance from many well known musicals.

The senior girls from the dance group are appearing in Stan Stennett's *Dick Whittington* at Aberdare and Beaufort Theatre.

Everyone showed their appreciation by clapping along to many well known lyrics

Helping during the event were 372 Squadron. All friends and neighbours received a Christmas gift.

The event was supported by local businesses, Aberthaw Power Station, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Rotary Club and Western Power and the group is extremely grateful for their support.

The party was also attended by AM Jane Hutt, who thanked the volunteers and wished everybody a festive and merry Christmas. **GF**

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The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan

Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

IT'S been a difficult year for the National Eisteddfod, as it has been for a number of other organisations. We've seen a number of festivals cancelled, and others worried about their future success.

But with a history spanning 150 years in its modern form, the Eisteddfod is adjusting and developing, responding to the challenges ahead, determined to ensure the success of next year's Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod, and the festivals of the future.

Speaking this week, Chief Executive, Elfed Roberts, said: "We've been working locally for well over a year now and it's going well. Naturally, we've been looking at our costs carefully and at our potential income, and we've now identified a number of savings.

"We want to ensure a successful festival on a number of levels – a festival which appeals to our audience and, of course, an Eisteddfod which allows us to gain a stronger financial footing, even at a time when the country is still facing financial worries.

"Making savings isn't a new challenge for the Eisteddfod. We've been making constant cuts since 2004, but this year, we've reached a stage where we have to make additional savings and it's very likely that future Eisteddfodau will look different.

"But this is also an opportunity for us to experiment and to look at doing things in different ways, and it's important that people realise this and give these changes a chance before voicing their opinions."

Changes next year will include a smaller pavilion with a revised seating plan, with the number of seats available remaining the same. This will provide a considerable saving for the festival, and is a chance to try something different.

Elfed Roberts explains: "It's an experiment in 2012, and if it appeals to the audience, the competitors and the broadcasters, then it could be a permanent change. We'll also be holding Maes C events on the Maes itself. Traditionally, these have been held on the caravan site but we've decided to try something a little different this year.

"If you were in Wrexham earlier this year, you couldn't help but notice the great atmosphere around the performance stages in the evening, and we want to make sure this continues in the future, so we're hoping that people will stay on the Maes in the evening and we'll be encouraging more people to join us.

"We'll also be experimenting with our current resources next year, using buildings like Y Lle Celf, the Theatre and the Babell Lên in a different way in the evening.

"There's been a lot of discussions about the Eisteddfod in the press and media over recent weeks, but one issue which hasn't been discussed much is the effect the Eisteddfod has on the local catchment area.

"Hosting the Eisteddfod is a great boost to an area, not only economically but also on a cultural, community and linguistic basis. It's a unique event, an event which hasn't been in the Vale since 1968, and I urge you to support our visit, by taking part, by volunteering, but most of all, by visiting us during the week.

"We want to ensure the success of the 2012 festival – please help us to make this happen."

Bu'n flwyddyn anodd i'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol fel nifer o sefydliadau eraill, a rydym wedi gweld nifer o wyliau'n cael eu canslo ac eraill yn poeni am eu dyfodol.

Ond gyda'r Eisteddfod fodern wedi bodoli am ganrif a hanner, mae'r sefydliad yn addasu ac yn datblygu, gan ymateb i sialensau, yn benderfynoli sicrhau llwyddiant Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg y flwyddyn nesaf, a gwyliau'r dyfodol.

Gan siarad yr wythnos hon, dywedodd Prif Weithredwr yr Eisteddfod, Elfed Roberts: "Rydan ni wedi bod yn gweithio'n lleol ers ymhell dros flwyddyn bellach, ac mae'r trefniadau'n mynd yn dda. Yn naturiol, rydan ni wedi bod yn edrych yn ofalus ar ein costau ac ar ein incwm posibl, ac erbyn hyn rydan ni wedi adnabod nifer fawr o arbedion.

ABOVE: Elfed Roberts, Eisteddfod chief executive.

Rydan ni eisiau sicrhau gw^yl lwyddiannus ar nifer o lefelau – Eisteddfod sy'n apelio at ein cynulleidfa ac wrth gwrs, Eisteddfod sy'n gyfle i ni ddod â dau ben llinyn ynghyd, er gwaethaf y rhagolygon economaidd sy'n ein wynebu fel gwlad.

"Dyw cael hyd i arbedion ddim yn beth newydd i ni fel Eisteddfod. Rydan ni wedi bod yn torri'n ôl yn barhaus ers 2004, ond eleni, rydan ni wedi cyrraedd sefyllfa lle mae'n rhaid i ni wneud rhagor o doriadau ac mae'n debygol iawn y bydd Eisteddfodau'r dyfodol yn edrych yn wahanol.

"Ond mae hyn hefyd yn rhoi cyfle i ni arbrofi ac i edrych ar wneud pethau mewn ffyrdd gwahanol a newydd, ac mae'n bwysig bod pobl yn sylweddoli hyn ac yn gweld sut mae'r newidiadau'n gweithio cyn mynegi barn."

Bydd newidiadau y flwyddyn nesaf yn cynnwys pafiliwn llai, gyda chynllun seddau newydd – ond nid llai o seddau. Bydd hyn yn creu arbediad mawr i'r Eisteddfod, ac mae'n gyfle i roi tro ar bethau newydd.

Eglura Elfed Roberts: "Arbrawf fydd hyn yn 2012, ac os yw'n apelio at y gynulleidfa, y cystadleuwyr a'r darlledwyr, yna, efallai y bydd hyn yn cael ei wneud bob blwyddyn. Byddwn hefyd yn cynnal gweithgareddau Maes C ar y Maes ei hun. Yn draddodiadol, cynhaliwyd y rhain ar y maes carafanau, ond rydan ni wedi penderfynu arbrofi eleni.

"Roedd 'na awyrgylch arbennig o amgylch y llwyfannau perfformio gyda'r nos yn Wrecsam, a rydym yn awyddus i weld hyn yn parhau yn y dyfodol, felly rydan ni'n gobeithio y bydd pobl yn aros ar y Maes yn hwyrach eleni, ac mi fyddan ni hefyd yn annog rhagor o bobl i ymuno gyda ni. Arbrofi y byddwn ni gyda'n hadnoddau cyfredol y flwyddyn nesaf, gan ddefnyddio adeiladau fel Y Lle Celf, y Theatr a'r Babell Lên mewn ffordd wahanol gyda'r nos.

"Mae llawer o bobl wedi bod yn mynegi barn ar yr Eisteddfod dros yr wythnosau diwethaf, yn awgrymu gwelliannau ac yn cynnig syniadau ar sut y gallwn greu arbedion. Ond yr hyn sydd heb ei drafod ryw lawer yw'r effaith mae'r Eisteddfod yn ei chael ar ei dalgylch. Mae

cynnal yr Eisteddfod yn talu ar ei ganfed i ardal, nid yn unig yn economaidd, ond hefyd yn ddiwylliannol, yn gymunedol ac yn ieithyddol. Mae'n ddigwyddiad unigryw, digwyddiad sydd heb fod i'r Fro ers 1968, ac rwy'n eich hannog i'n cefnogi gan gymryd rhan, gan wirfoddoli, ond fwyaf oll, gan ymweld â ni yn ystod yr wythnos.

"Rydan ni'n awyddus i sicrhau llwyddiant Eisteddfod 2012 – a rydym yn gofyn i chi am eich cymorth er mwyn i hyn ddigwydd."

SIONED EDWARDS

BLOOD DONORS

THE Welsh Blood Service will be holding donor sessions this month as follows:

Bedwas Hall, Memorial Hall, Gladstone Road, Barry – December 20 at 10am-6pm;

Mobile Donation Clinic, Recreation Centre, Angel Street, Bridgend – (Please call 01443 622193 or email *donor.appointments@wales.nhs.uk)* December 21 at 10am-12.30pm; and 2pm-6pm. December 22 at 10am-12.30pm; and 2pm-6pm. December 23 at 9am-1pm.

Highlight Community Centre, Stirling Road, Barry – December 29 at 10am-6pm.

To view a comprehensive list of all blood donation sessions, visit ***www.welshblood.org.uk*** *or call* ***0800 252266.***

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Out and About with The GEM

Thrift shop

THE St Athan Thrift Shop, Woodpecker Square, closed at 12pm yesterday (December 14) until 10am on Monday, January 9, 2012.

"We would like to wish all our customers a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, and look forward to seeing you all in 2012," a spokeswoman said.

Christmas get-together

BUSINESSES in Llantwit Major and the surrounding areas (Rhoose, St Athan, Llandow, Wick and Boverton) are welcome to join the town's Chamber of Trade and Commerce for a glass of wine and a mince pie this evening, (Thursday, December 15) in Llantonian Hall at 6pm.

A spokeswoman said: "This last event of 2011 gives us an opportunity to meet and find out what local businesses need the Chamber to do for them in 2012, especially with the Eisteddfod coming to Llandow next summer,"

For details, email penny@llantwitmajor-chamberoftrade.co.uk

Band concert

TODAY, Thursday, December 15 at 7.30pm, the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band will be hosting their family Christmas concert in Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.

The evening will feature the band, the St Athan Youth Band, Robin Tait (piano), carols, readings and festive songs.

Tickets £5 each, under 14 free; available from Chris Davies Estate Agent, Llantwit Major, on the door, or telephone 01446 798527.

The St Athan band will also be at the Four Bells, St Athan at 8pm on Sunday; the Vale Mayor's carol service at St Illtuds on December 19 at 7pm; and St Tathan Church Christmas concert on December 23 at 7.30pm.

Carols in the Park

THERE will be a free carol service in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care at Victoria Park, Barry, at 6pm-8pm on Friday, December 16.

Barry Brass Band will be joined by Barry Ladies Choir for the third annual carol concert in aid of the charity.

From 5pm there will be a Santa's grotto for the little ones and a carousel.

At Cadoxton Bowling Club, Rowena and the team have cakes, teas, coffees and even soup to buy to keep you warm and in good voice. All proceeds from the event will go directly to th Macmillan charity.

Festive coffee

A CHRISTMAS coffee morning will be held at Llantwit Major Bowls Club on Saturday, December 17, from 10am to 12 noon. Entrance is £3, which includes tea/coffee and mince pie/shortbread and a top up!

There will be a cake stall and raffle.

Everyone is welcome.

Yuletide play-along

ATAPINI and Lee Kennedy invite the public to a Yuletide musical community offering at Barry Meditation Centre on Saturday, December 17 (2pm-4.30pm) with a set of mainly original material for piano, guitar and vocals.

Bring your instrument if you wish to join in.

Mince pies and mulled apple juice will be served.

A donation for the centre appreciated. It is situated at Canon Hill Artspace, Canon Hill, Barry.

Christingle service

THE Christingle service this Sunday (December 18) at 4pm for families and children, heralds the coming of Christmas at the Barry church of St Paul.

The collection taken at the service is given to support children in poor circumstances in Wales.

The traditional service of carols (the first Mass of Christmas and Blessing of the Christmas Crib) is at 9.30pm on Christmas Eve and on Christmas morning, carols, procession and sung mass at 10am.

'Carols by candlelight' on Christmas Eve takes place at 3pm at Merthyr Dyfan, Colcot, Barry, and the Christmas morning service is at 8.45am.

Penarth services

THE Parish of Penarth All Saints is holding a number of special services over the Christmas period.

At All Saints Church on Sunday, December 18, there will be an all-age Nativity service at 10am and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6pm; on Christmas Eve, the Crib service for younger children at 4pm and Midnight Mass at 11.30pm; and on Christmas Day, Holy Eucharist at 8am and an all-age service at 10am.

At St Peter's, Old Cogan, there will be a Christingle service for all the family at 3.30pm on Sunday, December 18, and a Christmas Day service at 11am. All are welcome.

St Hilary carols

ON Sunday, December 18 at 6.30pm in St Hilary Church, there is a carol service with the village choir and members of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

At 8pm, the last quiz of 2011 takes place at The Bush – a very festive edition is planned!

Band Concert

BARRY Ladies Choir holds a Christmas carol concert at 7.30pm on Tuesday, December 20, at Masonic Hall, Broad Street, Barry. Tickets £6 from choir members or pay at the door.

Carols

CADOXTON Christian Spiritualist Church holds a candle lit carol service on December 21 at 7pm, followed by refreshments.

Charlotte (10) joins Cardiff cast of *Oliver*

A LOCAL youngster is to appear in Cameron Mackintosh's new production of Lionel Bart's smash hit musical *Oliver!* at the Wales Millennium Centre until January 21.

Charlotte Nicholas, photographed by Tim Dickenson

Charlotte Nicholas (10) from Cowbridge, will appear in the new production, which stars Neil Morrissey, of *Men Behaving Badly* and *Waterloo Road* fame as Fagin and Samantha Barks as Nancy.

They are joined by former *The Bill* actor Iain Fletcher as Bill Sikes, whose TV appearances include *Casualty, Doctors,* and *Band of Brothers.*

Charlotte was chosen along with another 49 youngsters in auditions last summer. She has previously appeared on the Donald Gordon stage having appeared in the *Les Misérables* tour in 2009.

SHOPPING COMPETITION

ONE LUCKY GEM WINNER

THE lucky winner of The GEM competition, run in conjunction with our feature on shopping in Bridgend, was Jeni Jenkins of Llantwit Major.

Jeni has chosen to spend her prize – a £25 voucher – at Wild About Beads in Ewenny Road. Look out in your GEM for more great competitions!

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Cracker jackpot lottery draw number D700.

- **£2,000:** 539066.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £5,500, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 753185, 559763, 340262, 474375, 435668, 557516, 818967, 713375, 371708, 706102, 899415, 497080, 840451, 827229, 826792, 476741, 482050, 183575, 257208, 605876.
- **£5:** 396564, 577320, 478975, 869088, 555462, 328440, 801340, 501637, 498486, 279808, 329883, 839362, 526391, 876940, 717839, 370910, 799869, 232205, 605611, 967494, 808735, 882276, 269386, 596787, 376527, 696781, 134173, 296434, 896686, 115647, 410386, 742721, 875871, 814655, 949600, 550421, 763122, 933231, 432231, 208402, 705537, 483949, 917168, 359176, 794786, 513698, 438993, 625395, 343707, 228476, 777936, 171817, 373584, 532961, 333670, 825007, 409573, 665538, 541245, 325470.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information, please telephone 02920 672062.

CHURCH OPENING SOON

AFTER a six-month project, All Saints Church, Penarth, is preparing to open its new-look church building.

Christmas services are: Sunday, December 18 – Nativity service at 10am; Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6pm. Christmas Eve – crib service for younger children and their families at 4pm; First Eucharist of Christmas at 11.30pm. Christmas Day – Holy Eucharist at 8 am; All Age Service at 10am.

There will also be services at St Peter's Old Cogan. Contact Rev Peter Cox on 02920 708952 for further information.

ALI DELGADO AT KING BILLY

THE King William pub would like to point out that their Christmas Eve entertainment, Ali Delgado, a female solo vocalist, will run from 7pm to 9pm.

On Friday, December 30, the singer Elisa Jones, will perform from 7pm to 9pm.

Vale MP's surgery

THE Vale MP Alun Cairns, will be holding advice surgeries on Friday, December 16, from 1.30pm to 3pm in Barry Library, King Square, Barry, and from 4pm to 5.30pm at Wenvoe Community Centre, Wenvoe.

Surgeries are very busy, so it is advisable to telephone 01446 403814 to make an appointment.

PACT meetings

***DYFAN** and **GIBBONSDOWN** joint PACT surgery, 10am-12 noon, December 15 at Coast Cafe (side of Coastlands Church), Tennyson Road, Barry.*

***BUTTRILLS PACT**, 6.30pm, December 15, Philip John Community Room, Barry Library, Tynewydd Road.*

***WENVOE** coffee and chat meeting, December 16, Wenvoe Arms at 1am.*

***LLANDOW/EWENNY PACT**, December 21 at Ewenny Village Hall at 7pm.*

LLANTWIT MAJOR CRAFT & GIFT FAIRS
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Thursday 22nd & Friday 23rd	7am - 7pm
Christmas Eve	7am - 2pm
Christmas Day to Wednesday 28th	CLOSED
Thursday 29th to Saturday 31st	8am - 5pm
Sunday 1st & Monday 2nd	CLOSED
Tuesday 3rd January 2012 - NORMAL HOURS	

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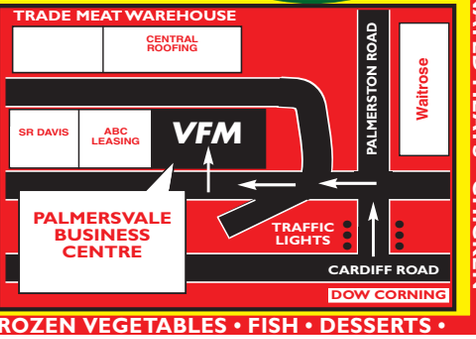

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NEWS FROM THE BARRY MEN'S FORUM

WELSH DIMENSION TO CAPTAIN SCOTT'S TRAGIC LAST JOURNEY

OUR last speaker of the year reminded members that there are many mementoes of Captain Scott's last journey not far away in Cardiff.

There was a strong Welsh element in his team and he spent his last night in Britain at the Royal Hotel, Cardiff.

Mr Frank Whalley drew our attention to the fact that the explorer is commemorated locally by the tower on Roath Park Lake, inside the City Hall with a plaque on the stairs, and there is also a statue in Cardiff Bay, rather ironically, overshadowed by the Norwegian Church.

Amundsen, who beat Scott to the South Pole was, of course, from that country.

Just over 100 years have passed since the explorer's hugely publicised journey took place, and controversy still rages as to his abilities and leadership qualities.

Could the tragedy have been averted, or was a dire fate too strongly weighted against this naval officer, who was certainly seen as a hero at that time?

Indeed, this view persisted until 1979, when a book by Ronald Huntford appeared, denigrating Scott and extolling Amundsen.

The controversial findings in this book were later refuted by modern day explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes in his biography on Captain Scott.

Fiennes is scathing about Huntford's criticisms and calls them a 'travesty of the truth.'

Our speaker pointed out that, whatever the merits, or de-merits of Scott, he took with him a brilliant team of scientists whose findings were of great use for many years.

It has to be remembered that at the start of the 20th century, very little was known about the Antarctic and many imagined it to be a series of ice-bound islands, rather than the great continent we now know it to be.

Mr Whalley reminded the forum that, not only was one of the team that reached the pole with Scott Welsh – Petty Officer Evans – but that a huge amount of funding for the expedition was raised by the Western Mail.

We were reminded that after reaching their destination and being welcomed by the sight of the Norwegian flag on the spot, the five explorers had to re-trudge some 820 miles back to base again.

It was on the return journey, in appaling conditions, that Petty Officer Evans died.

Scott recorded in his diary that he considered that Evans had been so badly afflicted that he had become "broken down in brain."

Despite the team's horrendous problems, they still managed to collect and carry some 38 pounds of valuable rock samples.

Indeed, Frank considered that the determination of the men would have got them back to base, if not for the early onset of a very severe winter.

Temperatures of minus 40 degrees affected the nature of the snowy surface and made it more like desert sand over which to pull their life supporting sledges.

Soon after Captain Oates had walked out into the blizzard, death took the lives of the three remaining heroes.

Their bodies were found the following spring.

At the next meeting Chris Bleach will speak on 'The Life of Tommy Cooper'. Meetings are held at 10.30am on Thursdays in the hall of the United Reformed Church in Barry. New members are very welcome. For further details contact 02920 594881.

MAC TANNER

Plaid AM questions Environment Minister on 'Fracking' issue

PLAID CYMRU'S Leanne Wood has called for the Environment Minister in Wales to place a moratorium on the extraction of shale gas until more is known about the potential side-effects.

The AM for South Wales Central questioned John Griffiths during a recent plenary session following a controversial planning application to begin test drilling for shale gas in the Vale.

There has been much local opposition to the process which is more commonly known as 'fracking.' Reports from the United States, where shale gas extraction is more advanced, suggests extraction brings a risk to ground and surface water because of the chemicals used in the extraction process.

Ms Wood said: "There has been a lot of concern about proposals to test for the viability of hydraulic fracturing in the Vale in recent months.

"As you will be aware, this is commonly known as fracking, and there are many unanswered questions about its side effects and the impact on the local environment.

"In a report that went before the Vale Council last month, for example, Dwr Cymru raised concerns that proposals could lead to the contamination of ground water, and said that any future applications should be accompanied by an environmental statement covering such matters.

"Dwr Cymru sources around five per cent of its supplies from ground water, and elsewhere there have been concerns about earth tremors.

"Will you agree to make representations to your counterparts in Westminster to call for a moratorium on onshore and offshore exploration, development and production of shale gas until these questions over safety and potential environmental damage are resolved?"

In reply, the Minister said: "As I have stated in the Chamber on many occasions, I am not able to comment on the merits or otherwise of any particular planning application or development.

"In general, in terms of shale gas, I am on record as stating the Welsh Government's position, which is that we understand the concerns that were expressed about exploration and the tapping of reserves.

"Our position is to communicate those concerns to the UK Government and be part of the development of the UK response.

"We have our own precautionary planning approach, which is set out in our planning policy, and indeed in the technical advice note on mineral policy."

Jimbill's easy Fakenham win

AT Fakenham on Monday, five-year-old *Jimbill* gave the Vale's Tim Vaughan his *10th winner at this far-flung racecourse.*

Confidently ridden by Richard Johnson, Jimbill, the odds-on favourite, took the opening selling hurdle race, coming home 17 lengths ahead of San Telm.

Jimbill was Vaughan's 33rd runner at Fakenham, giving him an impressive strike rate of more than 41 per cent.

BRIAN LEE

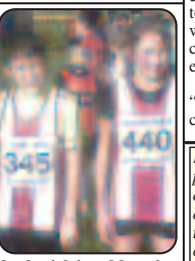
Cross-country sibling stars

A BROTHER and sister from Barry have had a promising cross-country season.

Ysobelle and Sam Williams (right) attend Westbourne School, Penarth.

Their performances have seen them both take part in the Welsh inter schools regional championships in Brecon.

Recently, they were awarded south Wales honours vests and travelled to Builth Wells to represent south Wales, where both girls' and boys' teams won gold.



FATHER Christmas is again preparing to ride through the streets of Dinas Powys and Sully – not only to deliver gifts to children, but to raise charity cash, with the help of Dinas Powys Rotary Club.

On Friday, December 16 – Southra and Sunnycroft; December 17 – Murch area; December 18 – Eastbrook/Millbrook Heights area; December 19 – Sully.

"Father Christmas will also be outside the Three Horseshoes in Dinas Powys at 4.30pm on Saturday and Sunday," a spokesman said.

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EJ GALLO (Red/White/Rose)	2 for £7.00
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GUINNESS DRAUGHT (10 Pack)
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STELLA CIDRE (8 Pack)

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This Puss cuts easy swathe through your funny bone!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

WHILE the *Shrek* franchise lost a little bit of its sparkle with every subsequent outing, the one true stand–out was the character of Puss In Boots.

With his smooth Spanish style, a sharpened rapier and the biggest eyes in animation, the character's popularity meant that a spin–off was a matter of when and not if.

That spin–off finally reaches cinema screens with the originally–titled *Puss In Boots*. Antonio Banderas again voices the cat, who, along with his friends Kitty Softpaws (Salma Hayek) and Humpty Dumpty (Zach Galifianakis), attempts to track down the evil Jack and Jill (Billy Bob Thornton and Amy Sedaris) who have discovered magic beans that could lead to the three friends' fortune...

When the announcement was made that *Puss In Boots* was to have his own spin–off, you couldn't help but feel that it was an attempt by Dreamworks to try and drain a little more cash from the *Shrek* well.

The law of diminishing returns, at least critically, had struck that particular franchise, so a reboot using one of the most popular characters seemed to be a decision based more on cash flow than creating a work of artistic merit.

Thankfully the end product feels less like a cash–in, *Puss In Boots* delivering everything you would hope for, and while hardly pulling up trees, has enough about it to entertain both young and old.

Certainly it aims to be more of a swashbuckler, the pop culture references that at times drowned out the comedy in the *Shrek* franchise reduced to nothing, while the comedy delivers the broad humour so beloved of youngsters, with some gags aimed squarely at the older portion of the audience.

It appears the lessons of the green ogre's demise have been learned then, the film resting squarely on the shoulders of Puss and his new cohorts, with nary a winking cameo or portent of things to come. Instead, this prequel sets up the character superbly well, filling in the gaps between his birth and his meeting in the second *Shrek* film.

While an origin story of sorts, the script zips along at a fiendish pace, its 90–minute running time going by in a flash with a story that delivers the requisite amount of derring do and spectacle, while still having time to delve into the pasts of the characters.

Certainly the main characters of Puss and Humpty Dumpty feel far more fleshed out than the villainous Jack and Jill (despite their quirky characters). But by and large, the story as a whole is an engaging and pleasant experience that leaves you wanting more come the conclusion.

While Chris Miller helmed the disappointing *Shrek the Third*, he is on far more solid ground here, giving the film a gorgeous visual feel that is only embellished by the use of 3D, the colours feeling richer and the depth and clarity of the image being lent extra power by the technology.

He also is able to fashion several set–pieces that balance drama and comedy, the film having a scope that is immersive and wonderful to see.

The vocal cast are all impressive, Antonio Banderas nailing the tongue–in–cheek humour and playfulness of the main character, yet playing it with the smallest of winks, the character losing nothing in his step–up from being a supporting player to a lead character.

He shares a pleasing chemistry with both of his main co–stars, Salma Hayek being a slinky and playful foil for Banderas, while Zach Galifianakis dials down his quirky humour and plays it (fairly) straight as Humpty, the character's sad past given extra poignancy by the actor's vocal stylings.

It's a shame that Jack and Jill aren't given as much to do, as Billy Bob Thornton and Amy Sedaris do sterling work as the villainous pair. However, as in the script, the pair are short-changed by having very little to do, the characters carrying a menace that, come the film's conclusion, is nullified by the bigger story.

While an entertaining spectacle, there isn't much to really make *Puss In Boots* stand out from the crowd other than name recognition; but what there is of it makes for an entertaining way to spend an hour and a half of your life.

Slight but hugely entertaining, this Puss will be be catnip if you love his adventures!

VERDICT - An entertaining first full–length outing for the wide–eyed kitten, *Puss In Boots* has enough excitement, comedy and adventure to amuse the audience without overtly stretching itself.

It may not have the long–life factor, but it will certainly keep you engaged throughout, and the prospects of further adventures for Puss certainly wouldn't be sniffed at! *Enjoyable*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: The Shrek franchise (2001-2010), The Mask Of Zorro (1998)

Lighting up festive time at the Murch

PLAID Cymru AM Leanne Wood helped local residents kick-start the festive period by switching on Christmas lights in Dinas Powys.

Residents at The Murch turned out for an evening of minced pies, mulled wine, dancing, singing and a raffle at the office of the All Saints Domiciliary Care Agency, where a Christmas party was being held.

Leanne was joined (*above*) by her former Assembly colleague, Chris Franks, who is a local resident.

Ms Wood, a regional Assembly Member for south Wales central, which includes the Vale, said:

"It was great to see the children and parents enjoying themselves at this event, which brought together the community in this part of Dinas Powys.

"The effort that people made in dressing up was impressive and I was pleased to play a small part in the evening."

Has anyone lost a little blind cat?

A LITTLE blind cat called Currant has touched the hearts of staff at Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption centre after she was found wandering at Bridgend SWALEC site.

The centre was contacted on November 21 by concerned staff at SWALEC who reported a tabby cat was in serious danger of being run over on the busy road at the industrial estate.

She had managed to survive for two weeks on the industrial estate as concerned staff had put food out for her.

The little cat was put in an emergency pen at the centre and given the name Currant.

It was then discovered that sadly, Currant was blind. Cat carer Katie Edwards reported: "When I went to scan Currant for a microchip, she walked straight up to me and started meowing. There didn't appear to be any problem with her eye sigh, but knowing what I know now the poor little cat was responding to my voice."

Currant has now been fully examined by a specialised vet at Shepherds hospital who believes she has been blind for some time and says is in a very good condition.

Bridgend Adoption Centre staff are now hoping for a happy ending, and are and trying to reunite Currant with her owners in time for Christmas.

They are wondering if she made her way to the industrial estate in a courier van which could mean she is from another area. If the centre is unable to locate Currant's owner, they will look for a suitable home for her.

Contact the centre on 01656 724396 or email bridgend@cats.org.uk if you have any information.

'Voyage' into the past that takes in Barry

BOOK REVIEW
by MIKE WILCOCK

***COASTER of South Wales* by Bernard McCall £17.50.**

With almost 100 pages of full colour photographs featuring coasters at ports from Swansea to Chepstow, this is another excellent book to add to the Christmas present list, for those interested in local shipping and industrial history.

Many of the photographs illustrate the changing scene in traditional port areas and I was especially interested in Barry Docks, with over a dozen colour images starting at Barry Roads.

As an example on page 36, the coaster *Mossville* heads towards the locks in 1969, passing Nell's Point and the large Butlin's holiday camp seen in the distance.

Memories come flooding back of the days when over 5,000 people would enjoy their holiday in south Wales at this special attraction.

The narrative on every page lists the national flag of the ship, its gross registered tonnage and the final two digits indicate the year the ship was built.

The author and photographers have included views of unfamiliar wharves and jetties in the area and also the background scenes add to each of over 116 images.

Although I'm a railway enthusiast, a chance to review a book on shipping came as a pleasant suprise.

The information contained in this book on ship design, size, history and ownership gave me many hours of reading and now I will take my video camera along the coast to follow the *Coaster of South Wales*.

For details of how to get the book, visit **www.coastalshipping.co.uk**

'STILL TIME FOR A LETTER FROM SANTA'

THE NSPCC is reminding parents in the area that there is still time to add some extra magic to a child's Christmas this year by ordering a letter from Santa.

The charity's annual fundraising campaign gives family and friends the chance to nominate a special child to receive a personalised letter from Santa, for a suggested donation of £5.

More than 200,000 letters have already been ordered, with more than 11,000 ordered by local parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends in Wales.

NSPCC community fundraising manager for the Vale, Jo Leonard said: "This year's Letter from Santa campaign has already raised an amazing amount of money for our services and helplines, which includes our ChildLine service for children and young people. But our elves still have more magical letters they can send to local children so please get your orders in before December 18.

"By making a donation when arranging for a child or newborn baby to receive a personalised letter from Santa, people will be helping to make sure ChildLine volunteers are there to support young people whenever they need us – including over the Christmas period."

Zumba in aid of Ty Hafan

ABOVE:
Hayley Mason and Tracy Jones, Ty Hafan family support team members.

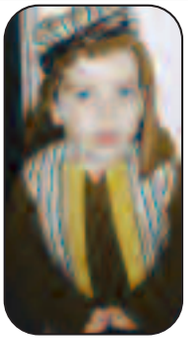
Ty Hafan staff members Hayley Mason and Tracy Jones are taking part in a Ty Hafan Zumba event on January 15 at Sport Wales in Sophia Gardens, Cardiff.

Hosted by Curves, there will be two sessions each lasting for two hours at which participants will learn eight new dances in the first hour and then perform them in the second.

People can choose to take part in one or both sessions.

Registration opens at 10am with refreshments served after each session.

Registration is now live online at www.tyhafan.org/zumba or call 029 2067 2060 to reserve a place.



Kiddie Winkles wow parents in concert

KIDDIEWINKLES Playgroup performed their Nativity concert on December 8 when Crossway Methodist Church was packed with relatives, friends and church members.

After the concert mince pies and drinks were served in the hall.

Today, December 15, at 11am, there is a Christingle service in Crossway Methodist Church, with Rev Peter Taylor conducting.

Tomorrow, the group has been invited to Tesco on Port Road, Barry to sing carols at the front of the store, to help raise funds for Alzheimers charity and will be in Christmas fancy dress between 10.30am and 11am.

COLD OUTSIDE? STAY WARM INSIDE!

Age Concern's guide to staying warm this winter

THE cold weather is well and truly with us now, and Age Concern has issued some practical advice on staying warm and healthy through the worst of the winter.

TO MAKE YOURSELF WARMER:

• Wear several thin layers, rather than one thick layer. This is because they trap warm air close to the body.

• Go for clothes made from wool, cotton or fleecy fabrics, if possible.

• Draw your curtains, as soon as it gets dark to stop the heat escaping and the draughts coming in.

• Keep any windows and internal doors closed when it's cold – this will keep heat inside, where you most need it.

• A lot of heat is lost through the head and neck, so if you're chilly indoors, try wearing a hat and scarf.

• Your body keeps warm by burning food you've eaten, so make sure you have regular hot meals that contain carbs, such as potatoes, pasta, bread and rice.

Try porridge with hot milk for breakfast and soups and stews for lunch and dinner.

• If you're sitting down, a shawl or blanket will provide extra warmth.

You should also try to keep your feet up, because air is cooler at ground level.

• Wear warm clothes in bed.

When it's really cold, wear thermal underwear, bed socks and even a hat.

'Show them that you care this Christmas' – urges local company

FOR many people, Christmas is a time for family and friends – but according to the charity, Friends of the Elderly, around 500,000 older people in the UK spend Christmas Day alone.

Care at home provider Bluebird Care, which supports disabled and elderly customers throughout Cardiff and the Vale, believes that much more could be done to help the more vulnerable people in our community. While some rely on 24 hour live-in care, others simply need a 15 minute visit each day, help with shopping or cooking, or just to know that a carer is on-hand.

"There's no question that, for some elderly people, life is lonely," said Huw Owen, managing director of Bluebird Care.

"Of course this feeling will be accentuated at this time of year and we should all help ensure that older people around us are safe, well, and in good spirits."

The Friends of the Elderly survey revealed that one in four people would not be including elderly relatives, neighbours or community members in their seasonal celebrations and activities.

"It really doesn't take much," said Owen. "Sometimes a friendly phonecall or popping in for a chat can be enough.

"That's actually one of a range of services we offer at Bluebird Care and we know this sort of regular contact with our carers makes all the difference."

The knock-on effects of isolation can have a profound effect: "Loneliness lowers people's self-worth, it can make them depressed and affects health and diet," said Owen. "Bluebird Care will be working around the clock over the festive period to make sure that our customers have a happy Christmas.

"There are around a million older people living alone in the UK, and I urge everyone to do their bit for their elderly relatives and neighbours, particularly at this time of year," he added.

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HETAS

Barry Comprehensive pays heartfelt tribute to 'The Boss' on his retirement

A concert honouring the work of retiring headteacher Mr David Swallow was held at Barry Comprehensive School on Friday, December 9.

As word has spread of Mr Swallow's impending retirement a number of people were keen to speak to The GEM and highlight his achievements.

Leighton Andrews, the Minister for Education and Skills, praised Mr Swallow for his leadership and influence in local education: "I would like to congratulate David Swallow and thank him for his service to the pupils and community of Barry.

"His dedicated leadership has been of great influence in the field of comprehensive education in the Vale and beyond. He has been an inspiration to others who now have vital leadership roles in other schools in Wales."

Alun Cairns, the Vale's MP, commented: "I'm delighted to be given the opportunity as the Vale MP, and also as a friend, to pay tribute to David as he retires from his role as headteacher at Barry Comprehensive School.

"His commitment to the school has been immeasurable – from changing the culture at the school to creating opportunities for pupils for their own progression academically of course, and also for their social and personal development.

"It has been a privilege to be able to introduce David to the Prime Minister and other senior politicians, and his leadership and style has indeed fed directly into policy."

'COMMITMENT'

The director of learning and development at the Vale Council, Bryan Jeffreys described Mr Swallow as an exceptional headteacher "with a passion to deliver the very best for pupils at Barry Comprehensive School".

He explained: "His commitment to pupils at the school is second to none and there are many families in Barry grateful for what David has achieved on behalf of young people in the town.

"He will be missed by many friends and colleagues in the education service who wish him well in his retirement."

Mr Phil Whitcombe, the headteacher at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive, told The GEM: "I have worked closely with David for the last seven years, as our two schools work as a partnership within the Barry Sixth Form. It has allowed the collaboration to consistently provide the very widest opportunities, of the highest quality, for the young adults in our community.

"David has done a super job in Barry Comprehensive, moving the school from one which was struggling, to one which offers a high quality and supportive experience for its pupils. He leaves his school in a much better position than the one that he took over and will be missed by many within the community. I wish him the very best for a long, happy and healthy retirement."

'OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED'

Lyn Howell, assistant headteacher, said: "I have now been at Barry Comprehensive for thirty seven years and during the last thirteen of those years it has been a genuine privilege and pleasure to work alongside David on the senior management team.

"It is difficult to put in a few words the impact he has had on our school. When he arrived from Wellacre Boys' School in Manchester, one of the first things he did was to change the school motto to 'Opportunity to Succeed' and he has subsequently worked tirelessly to ensure this principle underlies all that we do at Barry Comprehensive.

"There are many headteachers who are able to manage extensive school budgets; many who are gifted pastoral leaders and many who manage staff and parents well. We have been fortunate to have a headteacher who excels at all aspects of a difficult and demanding job.

"We will all miss him deeply and wish him a long, happy and thoroughly well-deserved retirement."

Karen Walters, the head of creative arts, remarked: "I am truly thankful to Mr Swallow for giving me the opportunity to lead the Creative Arts Faculty.

"He is a great supporter of the arts and his enthusiasm for drama and music has been inspirational both for me and the pupils we teach.

"He has been a good friend to me, through difficult times, and I will never forget his kindness. I wish him a peaceful retirement."

WORLD RECORD!

Andrew Jones, the head of chemistry, added: "I have known David all my teaching career. He gave me my first post and I now leave the school for my next job at the same time as him.

"I wish him luck as he goes into retirement, and will leave with many memorable moments. The greatest of these is being 'roped' into becoming his partner in the 'three legged race' world record attempt.

"Suffice to say that I feared I would become famous for killing a headteacher during a three-legged race, and took my time as a result!"

PHOTOGRAPH by ANDREW CLISSETT

ABOVE: Jenny Ford, David Swallow, Berchie Frederick, Tumfour Emmanuel, and teacher Helen McCormick (who visited Ghana earlier in the year). Berchie and Tumfour were visiting from Juaben Senior High School as part of the 'Global School Partnership' with funding from the British Council. The two visitors made a presentation to Mr Swallow at the concert held in his honour. They gave him a traditional African garment which you can see Mr Swallow wearing proudly in the photograph!

PHOTOGRAPHS BELOW by **ANDY WICKS**

ABOVE: Jenny Ford, Matthew Griffiths, Jane Hutt AM, Hannah Parker and Michael Walker were all keen to praise Mr Swallow's contribution to the school over the last 14 years.

ABOVE: Mr Swallow with his wife Claire, and sons Ben, Elliot and Guy, who were the special guests at the concert in the school's main hall.

LEFT: Not an early Christmas present – Mr Swallow unwraps a retirement gift.

ABOVE AND BELOW: The school's percussionists and choir performed at the concert.

Santa's Barry balloon grotto!

ABOVE: At High Street, Barry, there's been a 'Santa's Balloon Grotto' at Dr Bob's Balloons. Last weekend, Elsie (8) Callum (7) and Riley (2) were among the excited visitors. The grotto is open for the last time this Saturday, December 17, from 12 noon to 3pm.

Chocolate appeal

WITH only two weeks to go, Park Independent Funeral Directors are again supporting Ty Hafan Children's Hospice with their Chocolate Selection box appeal.

Lyndsay Ellis of Park Funerals said: "After the success of last year, when over 200 selection boxes were received, I thought it would be a great idea to continue this appeal.

"The closing date is December 22 and we thank everyone for their support and donations."

VALE SHOW SOCIETY CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL YEAR AT PRIZEGIVING

Gwyn Anthony of Haregrove Farm, Laleston.

The Vale Show chairman, Robert Llewellyn of Great House farm, Pyle.

Paul Llewellyn of New Beaupre Farm, St Hilary.

Lyndon Joseph of Mount Pleasant Farm, Stormy Down.

Tony Thomas of Pancross Farm.

David James of The Grange, Wick.

Photographs by **HEATHER MARCH**

AN excellent evening was had by all in St Mary's Hotel and Country Club recently when the Vale of Glamorgan Show held its annual dinner and field class prizegiving.

Following the dinner, Robert Llewellyn of Great House Farm, Penllyn, the chairman of the society announced the prize winners for 2011 with the society's president, Coun Jeffrey James, awarding the cups.

Prizewinners included:

- T D Llewellyn & Son, St Hilary – best clamp of silage.
- T W Jarvis & Son, Gelli Gill, Llansannor – best bale of silage.
- Lyndon Joseph, Mount Pleasant Farm, Stormy Down – long term grass ley.
- G Anthony & Son, Haregrove Farm, Laleston – short term grass ley.
- G Morgan & Son, Village House, Marcross _ best field of winter barley.
- W James & Son, the Grange, Wick – best field of winter oats.
- V J Thomas & Son, Pancross Farm, Llancarfan – best field of winter wheat.
- R D Edwards & Son, Pwllywrach Farm, Colwinston – best field of spring barley.
- R & L Anthony, Tythegston Farm, Bridgend – best winter oilseed crop.
- AR & HC Thomas, Sealand Farm, Wick – best field of beans.
- R & L Anthony, Tythegston Farm, Bridgend – best field of maize.
- R & L Anthony, Tythegston Farm, Bridgend – best clamp of maize.
- Robert Thomas, Ruthin Farm, St Mary Hill – best acre of potatoes.
- G Anthony & Son, Haregrove Farm, Laleston -– best group of eight in calf heifers.

The Cup for the winner of the most points in the combinable crop section was won by David James of The Grange, Wick and the Victor Ludorum Trophy for the highest number of points in the agricultural section on day 2011 was won by M A Webber and K Rickard, Castle Farm, Bisht, Newport.

The president, Coun Jeffrey James, said he was thoroughly enjoying his time in office. He was amazed to see how much actually happens on the field during show day. For example, the dog show is one of the largest in Wales.

He congratulated the society on a successful 2011 show and thanked them for all their hard work.

The society is looking forward to hosting the 2012 show on August 22 at Fonmon Castle. It has announced that the Devil's Horsemen will be the main ring attraction, with a medieval jousting display, featuring amazing horsemanship skills.

They supply horses and stuntmen for many of the films now being made in Britain.

For further information, log onto www.valeofglamorganshow.co.uk or telephone 01446 710099.

Christopher Edwards of Pwllywrach Farm, Colwinston, receives his trophy from Coun Jeff James.

Mrs Lynwen Anthony of Tythegston Farm, Bridgend.

Peter Jarvis, Gelli Goll Farm, Llansannor.

Local trio take to the big stage

LEFT: Oliver Bartlett, Lucy Miles and Rebekah West will be on stage in Oliver!

Photo by TIM DICKESON

THREE local youngsters are to appear in Cameron Mackintosh's new production, of Lionel Bart's smash hit musical *Oliver!* at Wales Millennium Centre, which runs until January 21.

Oliver Bartlett (12) and Lucy Miles, nine, both from Barry, appears in the show alongside Rebekah West (11) from Dinas Powys.

The show stars Neil Morrissey, of *Men Behaving Badly* and *Waterloo Road* fame as Fagin, and Samantha Barks as Nancy.

Samantha was a finalist in the BBC talent show *I'd Do Anything* and made her West End debut as Eponine in *Les Misérables* last year.

Oliver, Lucy and Rebekah were chosen along with another 47 youngsters in auditions last summer.

NEWS ROUND-UP FROM YSGOL GYFUN BRO MORGANNWG

Rugby honour for brothers

YOUNG Einan and Tiernan Scott from year-13 were selected to play at Llandovery College for the Welsh Academicals against both Christ College and Llandovery College.

The Welsh Academicals are a representative team selected from educational institutions in Wales. They are well known and respected within the rugby community.

In two very entertaining matches Einan and Tiernan made significant contribution to two well-earned victories. They were a credit to the school and the PE department. Well done boys!

Gymnastic success

CONGRATULATIONS to year-7, 8 and 9 pupils on their successes in the Welsh Gymnastics competition, especially to the year-7 boys' team, who are now Welsh champions.

They are Joseff Williams, Andrew Lewis, Rhys Davies, Gethin Evans, Jac Marshall and Saul Connelly.

The year-7 girls team came fourth in Wales and both years-8 and 9 boys and girls team came third in Cardiff and the Vale.

Llangrannog

LAST week, year-7 pupils had a thoroughly enjoyable week at Gwersyll yr Urdd Llangrannog.

Languages transition day

RECENTLY, year-6 pupils from all five of our feeder schools came to Ysgol Bro Morgannwg for a languages transition day.

They started the day with croissants and juiced served by the sixth formers before going on to French parachute games in the hall, making Christmas cards in the art department and many other taster activities in Spanish, German and French.

New school football kit

PETER Griffiths came to present a new year-8 football kit to the PE department this week.

PG10 has sponsored Ysgol Bro Morgannwg as part of the Kick Back Scheme. The Kick Back Scheme supports schools and communities, encouraging children to get active and to take part in sports, in particular football.

For more information go to www.pg10coaching.co.uk

The Welsh Gymnastics competition entrants.

Year-7 pupils at Llangrannog

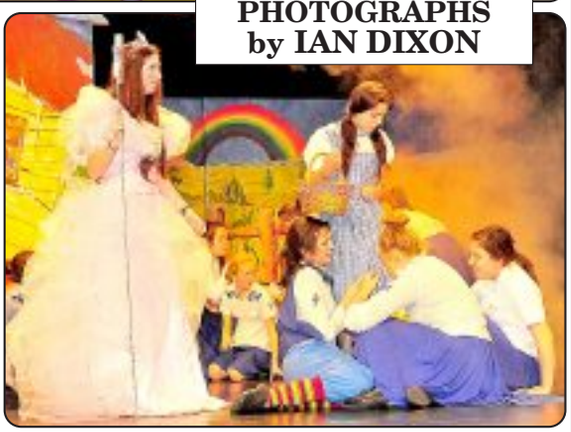
The new football kit

Bryn Hafren students put on a 'Wizard' show

THE drama department at Bryn Hafren School chose an old favourite for its school musical this year, ofering audiences the story of *The Wizard of Oz*.

The show, with much-loved songs such as 'Over The Rainbow', and 'If I Only Had a Brain' never disappoints, and there were strong performances in the lead roles from Lauren Pearce (Dorothy), Zoe Jenkins (Scarecrow), Sharifa Abdulla (Tin Man) and Andrew Emery (The Lion).

PHOTOGRAPHS by IAN DIXON



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NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development that may affect a Conservation Area / Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2008/01533/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Mixed use redevelopment including commercial leisure, retail and residential
Location:/Lleoliad: Barry Island Pleasure Park, Barry Island
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Affecting the Barry (Garden Suburb)

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/01183/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing detached double garage and construct a new three bedroom detached (two storey) dwelling
Location:/Lleoliad: Belgrave House, Factory Road, Llanblethian
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Affecting the Llanblethian Conservation Area

Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/01093/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Replace wooden sash windows with UPVC sash windows in front of house
Location:/Lleoliad: 102, Stanwell Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/01184/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition detached double garage
Location:/Lleoliad: Belgrave House, Factory Road, Llanblethian
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Llanblethian

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/01178/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Conversion and extension of existing derelict fire and water damaged building to create the boutique four star Marine Hotel, with 55 bedrooms, a Cafeteria and Wine Bar. To include the retention of the building's northern and western facades, reconstruction of the roof and chimneys to the original design, construction of side and rear extensions and creation of car parking and landscaped external areas
Location:/Lleoliad: Marine Buildings, Penarth Marina, Penarth
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2008/01533/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Mixed use redevelopment including commercial leisure, retail and residential
Location:/Lleoliad: Barry Island Pleasure Park, Barry Island

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/01177/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Conversion and extension of existing derelict fire and water damaged building to create a hotel, with 55 bedrooms, a Cafeteria and Wine Bar. To include the retention of the building's northern and western facades, reconstruction of the roof and chimneys to the original design, construction of side and rear extensions and creation of car parking and landscaped external areas
Location:/Lleoliad: Marine Buildings, Penarth Marina, Penarth

Departure from Development Plan/Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2008/01533/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Mixed use redevelopment including commercial leisure, retail and residential
Location:/Lleoliad: Barry Island Pleasure Park, Barry Island

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Dated / Dyddiedig: 15th December, 2011

Rob Thomas
Head of Planning, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Cross Inn offers 'masterchef' style cooking at affordable prices

DINING REVIEW by **PHILIP IRWIN**

ABOVE and BELOW: Cross Inn food has a strong visual impact!

IT is two years since the father and son team of Arthur and Liam O'Leary took over the Cross Inn, just outside Cowbridge, and in that time they have put their own stamp on the pub – in particular by introducing a new menu, and by redesigning the dining room.

The result is a cosy room, with an open fire in the hearth, that sums up the pleasures of dining out in a country pub.

The next step for the pair was making that difficult decision for any eating establishment – just where to place yourself in the market.

Do you offer a high- end gourmet experience at prices to match, or embrace the wholesome, tasty and good value philosophy?

You could, of course, try and combine the two and, on the evidence of our meal, that is what the Cross Inn has managed.

In fact, when our main courses were presented, my guest took out her iPhone to send a picture to friends to make them jealous!

She had ordered pan-fried pheasant breasts with grilled bacon, braised cabbage and saute potatoes, and the plate looked spectacular, with each component arranged masterchef style – and the flavours did not disappoint either.

Both the cabbage and the saute potatoes had their own sauces to add to the dish, as did the pheasant and bacon, which was the centrepiece.

So, a plate of food with a definite wow factor – made all the more special by the price, which was just £9.95!

All of the above also applied to my main course of oven-roasted duck breast, mash potato, roasted vegetables and a port sauce, at £10.95, with the ingredients arranged artfully around the plate, and the vegetables in a 'tower' topped off by the spinach.

It was another main course with real visual appeal, and once again the flavours brought out the best in the ingredients.

I'm not a great fan of spinach but this was excellent. My only minor quibble would be that there was more mashed potato than I could manage!

I've jumped straight to the main courses, but the starters were also excellent. My guest chose the soup of the day – pea and ham – which was packed with both, and bursting with flavour.

I chose the homemade fish cake, which turned out to be very light and fluffy, made with plenty of salmon and hake, and came with a tartar sauce, again homemade, which set the dish off perfectly.

When it came to choosing a main course there were plenty of other options, and I was certainly tempted by the fish dishes; for instance the grilled brill fillets with a paprika dusting, mash potato and neapolitan sauce (£8.95), or the pan-seared halibut steak, roasted root vegetables and saute thyme masada of potato.

All the main courses mentioned so far were off the 'specials board' but the Cross Inn also has a series of regular main courses on the menu, including deep fried fish of the day, Glamorgan sausages and a 'pie of the day'.

On to the desserts, and these did not disappoint either. I chose a vanilla and lemon pannacotta, and had absolutely no complaints, as the taste of both ingredients came through strongly.

My companion, an afficionado of sticky toffee pudding, pronounced hers to be as good as she had tasted, with a rich sauce melting into the smooth ice cream that accompanied it.

The Vale has a fair number of good eating establishments, and Arthur and Liam have chosen to fight their corner with excellent food at prices that are more than a pleasant surprise.

The wine list has been selected to give plenty of choice, but also with a budget in mind, and plenty of bottles are in the £13 to £17 range, as well as a number slightly higher.

Our two three-course meals worked out at less than £20 per head, excluding wine, which has to be great value these days.

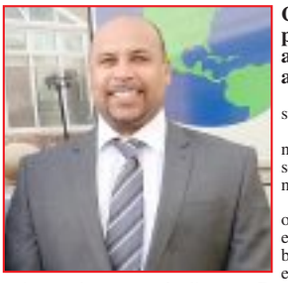
The Cross Inn also offers a two-course lunch (Monday to Friday) for just £8.95, a one course Sunday lunch for £7.95 (and a three-course for £12.45) and it is also still offering a choice of Christmas menus.

They also scored top marks for hygeine standards in the council's 'scores on the doors' rating system.

Contact the Cross Inn on 01446 772995.

Future Window Solutions offers commitment and great customer service

Craig Harewood



CRAIG and Dina Harewood of Future Window Solutions, which has provided home improvement and building services to commercial and residential clients for many years, believe that the company's attention to detail is one of its great strengths.

Craig explained: "We are a family run company and have grown from strength to strength with our commitment and the fact that good customer service is our priority.

"Future Window Solutions are members of Network Veka. It is an independent nationwide organisation set up to give our customers peace of mind that they have selected a highly respected and professional local company that has the backing of a national trade organisation.

"Veka constantly monitors our performance to ensure we maintain the high standard of workmanship that is not only required for our continued membership, but also to ensure all our work and products meet the required standards set by the Government's building regulations that covers energy performance that will help save on your energy bills."

Among the company's clients are Domestic Property, Ashgrove School Penarth, Mynydd Cynfig School Bridgend, Barclays Bank branches, Dwr Cymru, Youth Offenders' Centre, car showrooms, local estate agencies and Local Authorities.

Dina said: "We offer a wide range of products and services.

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"We also specialise in conservatories, organgeries, and garage conversions. The products we supply are 'energy efficient' as standard.

"The company also provides a 'no job is too small' repair service."

Future Window Solutions takes pride in the fact that the majority of enquiries come via recommendation and believe its high standards is responsible for the work.

Craig added: "People should be assured that all tenders and enquiries will have our full co-operation and full attention at all times.

"Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information."

Future Window Solutions would like to wish all its customers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all the team.

Craig and Dina Harewood would also like to thank the staff and team for all their hard work this year.

The Future Window Solutions team is celebrating another successful year.

ALL SAINTS' PUPILS LAUNCH FESTIVE SEASON IN STYLE AT FUN-PACKED FAIR!

THERE was a wonderful start to the festive season at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School recently, when the Parents and Friends Association held yet another fun-packed Christmas fair.

All the classes devised and produced their own stalls and there were lots of games, raffles and tasty refreshments to tempt the visitors who came in their droves to enjoy the fun.

Father Christmas was receiving small visitors in his enchanted grotto and grandmother Jean Cross was raffling another of her Quilt Club's stunning hand-made quilts.

The event raised over £1,000, which will help keep the pupils up to date with the latest technology and Headteacher Richard Ware warmly thanked everyone who supported the school and made the fair a huge success. NM

ABOVE: All smiles in anticipation.

Gwahoddiad!

NOSON Ymarfer Carolau wedi'u drefnu gan Bwyllgor Dysgwyr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg.

Pryd? Nos Fawrth, Rhagfyr 20fed am 6pm.

Lle? Ysgol Sant Curig, y Barri.

Faint? Am ddim!

Os oes gennych declyn sganio 'QR' ar eich ffôn, mae'r côd 'QR' ar waelod y poster (y peth sy'n edrych fel 'barcode'!) yn eich arwain at adran Maes D ar Facebook sydd hefyd yn cynnwys manylion am y digwyddiad. Neu cliciwch yma, http://www.facebook.com/pages/Maes-D/166107623478724.

Invitation!

COME and practice your carol singing in Welsh. You don't need to speak Welsh to attend! This event is organised by the Learners' Committee, Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod.

When? Tuesday, December 20th at 6pm.

Where? Sant Curig School, Barry.

How much? Free!

If you have a QR Reader on your phone, scanning the QR code on the bottom of the poster (the box that looks like a barcode!) will lead you to the Maes D section on Facebook which also includes details of the event. Or click here - http://www.facebook.com/pages/Maes-D/166107623478724.

Minister welcomes four new members to Barry regeneration partnership board

THE Housing, Regeneration and Heritage Minister Huw Lewis has appointed four new members to the Barry regeneration area partnership board.

Richard Keogh from the Barry Waterfront Consortium, Dave Ott from Dow Corning, Marco Zeraschi from Marco's Café on Barry Island, and Dr Sharon Hopkins from Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, were appointed following recommendations to the Minister by the current partnership board.

The Welsh Government's Barry regeneration area is a £9 million programme of investment over a four-year period.

Board members work closely organisations and groups across the town to develop and identify funding options for a wide range of other projects.

Mr Lewis said: "Board members are responsible for recommending projects that would provide long-term regeneration benefits for the people of Barry. The role comes with a great deal of responsibility.

"Whilst members must demonstrate a certain level of skill and experience, local knowledge and a passion for making Barry a better place to live and work are of equal importance.

"I welcome the new members to the partnership board and look forward to working with them in future," he added.

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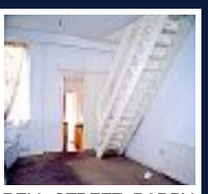
GROVE ESTATES

NEW PRICE



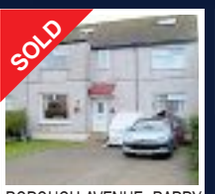
BELL STREET, BARRY
- 3 bedroom mid terrace property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Low maintenance rear garden
- Ideal as investment or 1st time purchase
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain

£87,500

HOLLAND WAY, BARRY
- 3 bedroom mid terrace property in popular location
- Gas central heating & Double glazed
- Front and rear gardens
- Viewing highly recommended
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

£99,950

SOLD



BOROUGH AVENUE, BARRY
- Well presented 5 bedroom semi-detached property
- Driveway to front for approx 2-3 cars
- Two reception rooms
- Double glazed & gas central heating
- Enclosed rear garden
- Offered freehold with no chain

£179,950

JEWEL STREET, BARRY
- 3 bedroom bay fronted mid terrace property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- 2 reception rooms
- Good sized rear garden
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain

£125,000

PARK AVENUE, BARRY
- Spacious 3 bedroom bay fronted mid terrace property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- 2 reception rooms
- Far reaching views over Bristol Channel
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain

£174,950

BUTTRILLS ROAD, BARRY
- A generously sized 2 double bedroom ground floor flat
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Communal front & rear gardens
- Viewing highly recommended
- No ongoing chain

£90,000

KINGSLAND CRESCENT, BARRY
- Rarely available 5 double bedroom semi-detached in central location
- Many restored period features
- Gas central heating & partial timber double glazing
- Driveway
- Views over the Bristol channel to the rear

£199,950

BRYN AWEL, BARRY
- 4 bedroom detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Detached garage & driveway
- Spacious gardens
- Views across Bristol Channel

£244,950

LLAN FARM, BARRY
- An extended 5 bedroom detached property dating back to approx 1700's
- Landscaped front & rear gardens set on approx 1/3 of an acre
- Set in quiet semi-rural location
- Off road parking with double garage
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Offered freehold

£299,000

NEW PRICE

WINSTON ROAD, BARRY
- 3 bedroom semi detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Driveway to front
- Front & rear gardens
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

£115,000

SSTC

GREENLAWNS, BARRY
- Immaculately presented 3 bedroom semi detached property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Viewing highly recommended
- Good size front & rear gardens

£129,950

MOREL STREET, BARRY
- A well presented 3 bedroom property in a popular location of Barry
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Some original features remain
- Viewing highly recommended

£105,000

RENTALS

Llewellyn Street, Barry
3 Bedroom property in popular location. GCH. DG. Unfurnished **£550 pcm**

Lee Road, Barry
3 Bedroom property in popular location. GCH. DG. Unfurnished **£550 pcm**

Wilfred Street, Barry
2 Bedroom property in popular location. GCH. DG. Unfurnished **£525 pcm**

Glenbrook Drive, Barry
2 Bedroom end link property. GCH. Off road parking. Unfurnished **£500 pcm**

Gladstone Road, Barry
2 Bedroom 1st floor flat in popular location. GCH. DG. Unfurnished **£525 pcm**

College Road, Barry
3 Bedroom Semi-detached in popular location. GCH. DG. Unfurnished **£550 pcm**

College Road, Barry
3 Bedroom terrace property in popular location. GCH. Mostly DG. Unfurnished **£600 pcm**

Davnic Road, Barry
2 Bedroom 1st floor flat. GCH, DG, off road parking. Unfurnished **£425 pcm**

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MAES Y GWENYN, RHOOSE POINT
Constructed by David Wilson. Four double bedrooms, master with ensuite and dressing room, living, dining room, conservatory, 2011 replacement kitchen, breakfast room, utility. Well presented throughout. Enclosed laid to lawn garden. Integral garage, cul de sac position.
£280,000

MAES Y GWENYN, RHOOSE POINT
Well presented. Four double bedrooms, ensuite and dressing room, living room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast, private, enclosed garden, double garage. No chain.
£274,950

MAES Y GWENYN, RHOOSE POINT
Detached, four double bedrooms, master ensuite. Kitchen with integrated appliances. Well presented throughout. Enclosed rear garden. Integral garage.
£244,950

ST JOHN'S PLACE, RHOOSE
Two/three bedrooms, detached bungalow, living room, bedroom with ensuite shower, conservatory, enclosed garden, driveway/garage. Well presented throughout.
£224,950

BRYN Y GLOYN, RHOOSE
Well presented throughout. Four bedroomed, detached modern. Views over conservation and sea. Living/dining, kitchen/breakfast, utility, garage/driveway. No chain.
£239,950

FONMON ROAD, RHOOSE
Detached dorma bungalow. Four bedrooms, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, enclosed larger than average garden, garage and driveway with ample parking. Well presented throughout. Consider exchange for 2 bed bungalow in the Vale area.
£279,950

THE NURSERIES, RHOOSE
Detached bungalow, private access, indoor heated pool, three bedrooms, cctv monitoring, ensuite, kitchen, utility room. Suitable for wheelchair use.
£399,950

CLOS YR WYLAN,BARRY ISLAND
Three storey detached. Spacious living accommodation. Five bedrooms, kitchen leading to dining room. Three ensuites and family bathroom. Fabulous sea views over beach. South facing level garden. Driveway/garage. Well presented.
£289,950

CLOS YR WYLAN,BARRY ISLAND
Modern detached. Corner position, five bedrooms, three bathrooms, far reaching sea views. Double garage. Spacious living.
£329,950

GWENNOL Y MOR, BARRY
Three bedrooms, modern semi-detached. Living room/dining room, three storey, driveway/garage. No chain. Option of furniture to remain. Enclosed rear garden.
£184,950

ROMILLY AVENUE, BARRY
Three double bedrooms, semi detached, two spacious rec rooms, original flooring, level, laid to lawn garden, brick-built sheds. Minutes walk to park and beaches. Viewing recommended.
£229,950

ROMILLY ROAD, BARRY
Five bedrooms, traditional, spacious, versatile living room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen. Far reaching sea views. Ensuite to master bedroom. Enclosed garden/garage. Minutes walk to train, numerous beaches.
£199,995

CAER FFYNNON, BARRY
Four bedrooms, modern detached. Shower/wc cloakroom, living room and dining room, fitted kitchen - integrated appliances. Far reaching sea views. Raised decked sun terrace. Garage/ driveway.
£254,950

HEOL Y GAER, THE KNAP, BARRY
Dorma bungalow, show home presented. Sea views from 1st floor. Ground floor: two bedrooms, living room, dining room, 2011 fitted kitchen, family bathroom.To the 1st floor: Master bedroom and bathroom. Detached garage/driveway.
£349,950

ROMILLY PARK ROAD, BARRY
Four bedrooms, spacious detached, Romilly Park location. Sea views from front elevation, balcony, ensuite to master. Double garage and hobby room. Original features throughout. Viewing highly recommended.
£399,950

BRON Y MOR, BARRY
Imposing, detached. Built in 1950's. bay fronted, four bedrooms, lark gardens, the Knap and sea views. Livingroom, dining room, oak block flooring. Kitchen with integrated appliances, conservatory, utility room, integral garage/driveway. Enclosed, well established garden.
£429,950

GRAYTON COTTAGE, BARRY
Spacious dorma detached bungalow. Ground floor: Study (bedroom), living room, dining and sun lounge. Two bedrooms, kitchen/breakfast. First floor: Sitting room, dressing room, bathroom and master bedroom. Private garden and garage.
£374,950

THE MOORINGS, HIGHLIGHT PARK, BARRY
Semi detached dwelling, dorma bungalow, situated on a large plot. Three/four bedrooms, living room and conservatory. Sought after location. Ample room to extend (subject to usual planning consent) garage/driveway.
£329,950

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GEM Family Notices

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Please send CV to Email: lynda.pedersen@topstak.co.uk

Assistant Manager/ Chef required on a part / full time basis. Must have experience in operating/ managing coffee shop/cafe. Apply in person to the Forest Cafe Porthkerry Country Park.

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Chris & Brian Watson
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Family Notices

JOHNSON
Jean

Peacefully on 7th December in the Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend. Jean aged 81 years of Llantwit Major, beloved wife of Des, dearly loved mother of Lynn, loving gran to Sarah and great-gran to Archie.
Jean will be greatly missed by all her loving family and friends. Funeral Service took place on Thursday 15th December. All enquiries to WA Brown & Son. 01446 792489.

PRITCHARD
Henry George (Harry)
Peacefully, at home in Raglan on 8th December, Harry aged 69 years (formerly of St Athan). Loving husband of Pat, very much loved dad of Steven and Samantha, daughter-in-law Susan, granddaughters Charlotte and Harriet, grandsons Morgan, Jack and James and brother to Colin.
Greatly missed by his loving family and friends resting at home until the service at 11.30am at Coychurch Crematorium on Monday, 19th December 2011.
Family flowers only please, if wished donations to St David's Hospice c/o Ernest Heal & Sons, Monmouth.

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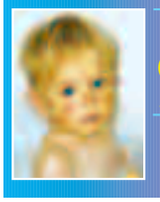
Birthday Memories

MARILYN RATTEY
20th December
The first Birthday without you Dear, no cards or gifts today, but treasured memories you left behind are with us every day.
Loving Mum x and Sister Linda x

Birthday Notices

HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY



RHYS GLENTON
for the 17th December
Lots of love from Mum, Dad and Ryan XXX
Enjoy the party!

Birth Notices

Congratulations
Aaron & Kirsty
~ on the birth of your beautiful daughter ~
Ava Mai
Born on 12 December 2011
Weighing 7lbs 15oz
With all our love Mum, Dad, Luke, Carly & Great Gramp xxx

Congratulations
Aaron & Kirsty
on the birth of your daughter
Ava Mai
on 12 December 2011
Love from Ann, John & Family xxx

Congratulations
to the proud grandparents
Sue & Phil Vincent
on the birth of their first granddaughter
Ava Mai
Love from Ann, John and family
x x x

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF MAKING
DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER
SECTION 53 OF THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL DEFINITIVE MAP
THE DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE FORMER COUNTY OF SOUTH GLAMORGAN RELEVANT DATE 14th SEPTEMBER 1954.
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2011 (No.DMO/53/378)

The above order made on the 11th day of November 2011, if confirmed as made, will modify the definitive map and statement for the area by adding a footpath from Pontypridd Road to Millwood, Porthkerry Country Park.

A copy of the order and the order map may be seen free of charge at the address below between 9:00am and 4:00pm on weekdays. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at a price of £4.50.

Any representation or objection relating to the order must be sent in writing to the Director of Environmental and Economic Regeneration, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Docks Office, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than 28th January 2012 and applicants are requested to state the grounds on which it is made.

If no representations or objections are duly made to the order or to any part of it, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council may, instead of submitting the order to the Welsh Assembly Government, itself confirm the order. If the order is submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government, any representations and objections, which have been duly made and not withdrawn, will be sent with the order.

Dated this 15th day of December 2011

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

First half surge wins it for Pyle

PYLE YOUTH 34 – 22 MAESTEG CELTIC

PYLE entertained Maesteg Celtic at Brynglas Fields in what was an enjoyable and hard fought Cup game.

Celtic had the first chance to put points on the board but put the kick wide. Pyle scored first after hooker David Thomas won a scrum against the head, allowing flanker Keiran Hooper to pick up and cut through the unsuspecting Celtic defence. Kyle O'Reilly added the conversion.

Pyle got their second try after being awarded a lineout just inside the Celtic half. A long throw to No 8 Owen Thomas surprised the defence and he used his power and strength to break a number of tackles.

He then produced a sublime one-handed offload to the supporting Xavier Manaseitava, who drew the last man before passing to the ever-present Kyle Clatworthy, O'Reilly again added the conversion.

Pyle maintained the pressure on the Celtic defence and when a penalty was awarded just inside the Celtic 22, it was quickly taken and passed through the hands for Owen Thomas to score out wide, this score concluded a pulsating first half.

Pyle were quickly on the scoreboard again in the second half with a quickly taken penalty by Hooper. The ball was moved quickly along the line, where prop Antonio Hamblin used his speed, strength and agility to burst through and neatly side-step the covering defender to score by the posts. O'Reilly slotted over the conversion.

Pyle looked to be easing to victory but the loss of Owen Thomas to a yellow card gave Celtic a chance to use the extra man. From the penalty, No.8 Jay Ronan drove through the Pyle team and offloaded for flanker Liam Thomas to crash over. Harris added the conversion.

Celtic used their man advantage to great effect and moved the ball quickly upfield where a scrum just inside the Pyle 22 gave Ieaun Davies the chance to pick up and dart through for a try.

Pyle retained the ball from the restart and edged into the Celtic 22, where they awarded a penalty in front of the posts, which O'Reilly slotted over.

The two teams tried to add to the score but both defences held out, until a kick and chase by Ieaun Davies resulted in Pyle full back Rhys Ansen having to take the ball over his own line. An infringement at the resulting five-metre scrum gave Davies the chance to tap and go and just about squirm over the line.

Pyle replied straight from the restart as Hooper gathered and drove at the Celtic defence. The ball was quickly recycled and some lovely hands by the backs allowed Ansen to score out wide.

With time running out, Ieaun Davis again chipped ahead, gathered and offloaded to Ronan to score out wide.

Antonio Hamblin was awarded the Pyle man of the match award for his tireless work in the scrums and for his powerful running, Kyle Clatworthy and Keiran Hooper were the other players of note.

Pyle's next game is against Porthcawl in the league on Saturday at Brynglas Fields.

HR

Huskies in search of vital win

by ELLIOT THOMAS

The Huskies' latest games proved to be a mixed bag of results.

The first team faced west Wales opposition in the form of 2010 league winners Swansea Storm at home, and an away game at Swansea University.

The Storm beat the Huskies in a tight game 84-65 where their American import scored 45 points.

The Huskies leading scorers were Lloyd Roberts with 20 and Ian Gibbons with 13.

The Huskies also experienced defeat against Swansea Uni who ran out 77-42 winners. The Huskies had no answer for their 6'6" Canadian who dominated the game and their cause was made even more difficult with the absence of leading scorer Lloyd Roberts.

Only Chris Gibbons scored double figures, leading the way with 10 points.

Commenting on both games, coach Trigg said: "We're really struggling in the height department this year and it showed in both our games – we just couldn't compete with their big players.

"We really missed Lloyd in our second game too, he's our main scorer and most of our offence goes through him."

The second team fared slightly better with a home loss to Cardiff Capitals 101-82 and a home win against Ely Titans 91-74, Jack Dyer scoring 35 and 46 points respectively.

Coach Cooper was pleased with the way his team is progressing: "The way our boys are gelling is really encouraging as this is our first season together and they're so young. It's very encouraging for the future."

Finally, the club's under 14 side won their first ever game, 54-4 against the Cardiff Capitals.

Coaches Gibbons and Whitlow started this team in the summer and have seen them improve in leaps and bounds. They have their next games on Sunday, December 18 at Holm View.

The club is still actively recruiting from ages 12 above. For further information, please contact Alun Rees on 029 20531531, go to www.barryhuskies.net or see our Facebook page Barry Huskies Basketball Club.

Under-9s get a chance to gauge their progress

BRIDGEND Athletic under-9s visited Cowbridge in an eagerly anticipated local derby.

'The Ath' have a fine tradition of producing young players and a fixture against them is always an occasion to be savoured.

The first game can best be described as nip and tuck throughout. Bridgend Athletic were the bigger group but Cowbridge's hugely-improved defence kept them out – as indeed did the Athletic defence when Cowbridge were in possession.

It was difficult to see where any break through was going to be made; but as a result of possession being lost and then quickly recovered, Robbie Hawkins made it through two defenders to score a try Cowbridge.

Further excellent defence, with Jake Williams to the fore, prevented any response before half-time.

Early in the second half, a dropped pass gave away possession and a couple of plays later a long-range try was scored by the Athletic.

The Cowbridge team gathered themselves again and kept possession for a lengthy period eventually scoring what turned out to be the winning try through Rhys Williams, who played extremely well throughout.

Strong tackling meant that Cowbridge held on for what was just about a deserved win.

Everyone contributed, although a special mention should go to David Harris who, in defensive situations, made hard yards and then allowed the rest of the team to start passing movements in more favourable field positions.

GAME TWO

There were some late arrivals for the second game where the team started by defending well. They were in a good attacking position when Bridgend Athletic broke away and scored their first try.

An excellent break by Tom Johnson was followed by the ball being lost, and a second long-range try left Bridgend Athletic two ahead at half time.

In the second half, periods of controlled play where Cowbridge kept the ball were punctuated by the ball being lost and tackles being missed – something that was capitalised upon by Bridgend Athletic's number 15, who scored three long-range tries.

The final score did not reflect how the Cowbridge boys played generally. The passing game, though mistakes will happen, must be encouraged.

There were signs of the progress that the boys have made over the last number of weeks.

Both the break in the first half by Tom Johnson and a couple in the second half by Oliver Jarmain could have led to tries, and a number of players, Matthew and James Gilvear notably, worked very hard, making huge defensive efforts.

Squad: Iwan-Thomas Bartle, Ioan Davies, Jay Downes, Gruff Ford, James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, Elis Greenwood, David Harris, Robbie Hawkins, Harri Howkins, Oliver Jarmain, Tom Johnson, Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Joe Marshman, Tom Pugh, Jack Reilly, Harry Whittaker, Dewi Williams, Jake Williams and Rhys Williams.

JS

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Success for TKD club

RECENTLY, the TAGB Tae Kwon Do British Championships took place in Telford International Centre.

Students from Steve Tottle's Tae Kwon Do club competed and brought home an impressive collection of trophies.

The results were as follows: Bethany Burt – bronze in junior black belt lightweight; Jessica Burt – silver in junior red belt peewee; Nathan Jones – gold in junior blue belt middleweight; Ben Groves – gold in men's blue belt heavyweight; Liz Gordon – gold in ladies' black belt middleweight; Emma Nelson – bronze in ladies' black belt heavyweight; Josh Hulse – silver in men's black belt welterweight.

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WENVOE CASTLE GOLF CLUB HOLDS A SUCCESSFUL PRESENTATION NIGHT

ABOVE:
Past lady captain Wendy Motton presents the H Broadbent Trophy to Nicola Sims and Lloyd Evans

Lady captain Tina Church presents the M Moss Memorial Shield Debbie Williams

Lady vice-captain Lynda Campbell presents the Thompson Salver to Sheila Davies

The lady captain presenting the Ladies Championship Trophy to Pat Jarvis

Club professional Jason Harris with Kevin Knowles, winner of the Dai David Putter

Tony Cumming presents the Robert Rickards Trophy to Tim Hanson

Club captain Tony Cumming presents the Club Championship Trophy to Lloyd Evans

Past captain Chris Tatt presents the 75th Anniversary Cup to Geoff May and Jeff Hull

Club president Brian Coffin presents the Dr & Mrs AM Jones Trophy to Delyth Thomas and Bobby Woodruff.

Club vice-captain Norman Robbins presents the Autumn Tankards to Gary Tutssell and Dean Rowlands

PRESENTATION night is always a special occasion at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club, with the winners of the various club competitions receiving their well-earned trophies.

This year had the extra touch of being the 75th anniversary of the club, formed in 1936. The club reflected on a successful year, particularly the 'Festival of Golf' in July to celebrate the occasion.

Club champion Lloyd Evans was delighted to receive his trophy from captain Tony Cumming and gave praise to the runner-up, Tim Hanson, for a great game played in an excellent spirit.

Lloyd also took the opportunity to thank the head greenkeeper and the green staff for presenting the course in superb condition, not only on the day but throughout the year.

Lady champion Pat Jarvis was away on holiday and received her well earned trophy at a special meeting of the ladies section. In her absence, the runner-up, Sheila Morrow, took the opportunity to congratulate Pat as a deserved winner on the day, and again the match was played in a very sporting manner.

In addition to the above, a further 36 trophies were presented for men's, ladies and mixed competitions, and each winner will enjoy seeing their names engraved on the honours boards throughout the club house.

Wenvoe Castle Golf Club certainly has a lot to offer the competitive golfer of all standards and new members are very welcome. There is plenty of opportunity to play social golf, and off the course a busy programme is full of events to overcome the disappointment of wayward drives and missed putts.

For more information, contact the club secretary Nicola Sims on 02920 594371.

Wenvoe Castle Golf Club – Presentation Night:

Club champion, Lloyd Evans; Runner-up, Tim Hanson; Lady champion, Pat Jarvis; runner-up, Sheila Morrow.

Ladies competitions:

Blod Lewis Cup, N Sims; M Moss Memorial Shield, D Williams; Thompson Salver, Mrs S Davies; Committee Cup, S Macpherson; Seniors Cup, C Doody; White Cup Foursomes, S Morrow and D Thomas; Mary Fellows Bowl, L Bird; Bronze Division champion, W Motton; Handicap Oscar, B Beedham; Coronation Cup, B Beedham; Laurie Jones Shield, K Ball and L Marples.

Gentlemen's competitions:

Committee Cup, R Brana and Mr W Harrington; LG Fellows Tankard, R Ivory; Palmer Cup, G Tutssell; Autumn Tankards, G Tutssell and D Rowlands; Dai David Putter, K Knowles; Viv Jones Tankard, P Walker; Celnik Cup, T Hanson; Captain's Shield, R Ivory; Coronation Cup, D Milton; 50th Year Cup, R Campbell and C T Jones; Renwick Seniors Trophy, M Brown; Robert Rickards Cup, T Hanson; H Regan Foursomes, M Gill and I Pearcey; Hales Cup, L Evans; Dragon Trophy, D Jefferies. Presidents Bowl, Mr R Ivory; 75th Anniversary Cup, G May and J Hull.

Mixed competitions:

Vaughan Thompson, S Dayananda and Dr D Dayananda; Morgan Williams Bowl, L Hudd and J Hudd; Cupid Cup, Mr and Mrs G Macpherson; Ashton Trophy, Mrs L Hudd and J Hudd;Whiteflower Cup, Mrs H Kinsey and C Kinsey; H Broadbent Trophy, Miss N Sims and L Evans; Bowen Greenwood, Miss N Sims and L Evans; Dr and Mrs A M Jones, Miss D Thomas and R Woodruff.

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Sully Sports run riot against Old Tylerians

ON a cold and damp Saturday, Sully Sports entertained Old Tylerians RFC in their last league match of 2011.

With the Seconds having no fixture, it gave the coaches a headache in selection, with more than40 players to select from.

Sports kicked off, the ball was caught from kick off by Sully's Ben Such, and a drive right up the middle saw Nathan Szuchnik going over for the first of many tries, converted by Chris Cummings.

Sports gathered from the kick off and started to inter link between forwards and backs, and things that the guys worked on in training after last week's game saw them produce some eye–catching rugby.

Hard work and strong running saw Sports get on top of the game and further tries from Nathan Taylor, Jason Evans and Matthew George ensured that Sports finished the half strongly, but not to be out done in the middle of the romp, Old Tylerians, managed a score of their own.

It was good to see the running rugby mixed with the hard contact from all players. Indeed a penalty try was awarded as well, leaving the half time score 31-5.

The second half started and Sports kept up the good work with some excellent running rugby. Jason Evans must have thought the Gods had turned against him, as every time he set off up the pitch, the referee would blow up for something.

Changes were made but the tempo stayed the same, showing the excellent strength in depth the club has.

Tries came from Jon Blake, Chris Cummings, Stuart Morgan getting a brace, John Thomas and Wayne Jones, conversions by Chris Cummings. The final score was 73-5.

Team: Jody Velda, Jamie Griffith, Tom Sloman, Jon Blake, Michael Angove (captain), Anthony Wakefield, Jason Evans, John Thomas, Ben Such, Adam Wheeler, Ross Eason, Matthew George, John Dimond, Chris Cummings, Grantley Harris, Stewart Morgan, Nathan Szuchnik, Mike Harkin, Wayne Jones, Nathan Taylor.

Training takes place Monday and Wednesday Nights at Sully Sports ground, 6:30pm. All are welcome.

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As the name suggests, it is bigger than a standard Scenic and can, therefore, seat seven adults – compared to just five – making it ideal for chauffeurs, taxi drivers and those with large families.

When the third row of seats is in position, it takes up almost the entire boot. However, it's easy to remove by simply pulling the red strap at the back of each seat to push them down, creating a reasonable amount of room.

It has always puzzled me as to how passengers sitting in the third row access their front–facing seats without being contortionists, but in the Renault it's just a matter of tipping the outer middle seat forward so that rear passengers can clamber in.

The Grand Scenic is comfortable, spacious and well finished. Cubbyholes and bottle holders abound. The clever use of space allows us to transport wood for the fire, a full size Christmas tree and various presents for my baby daughter Harriett's first Christmas, with plenty of room to spare. And when the sun comes out, we enjoy opening the twin sunroofs.

In the winter months my 50–mile daily commute is often delayed by road works, accidents and bad weather, and the Scenic copes well under this pressure.

Its frugal 1.5dci engine is surprisingly nippy when the opportunity arises. However, when crawling through endless traffic jams, the six–speed automatic gearbox doesn't seem to like first or second, proving much happier in the other gears.

It took a little while to familiarise myself with the placement of the speedometer, which sits nearer the centre of the dash and is all digital, which can be difficult to navigate at night.

The Grand Scenic does feel a bit cumbersome to drive and its size makes it awkward to reverse, although there are sensors to alert the driver to unseen obstacles. But it handles motorway driving well and the diesel engine is hardly audible.

Parkers, the car experts, write: *"Renault claims to have invented the compact people carrier with the Scenic in 1996 and its third generation model remains among the best of its type." The publication goes on to say that compared to the standard Scenic "the used market prefers the versatility offered by the Grand Scenic and its seven-seat layout".*

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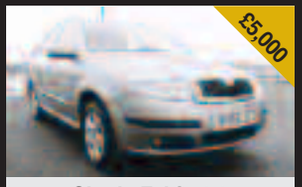
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GEM sport

Dinas Powys suffer as Newport YMCA shows that touch of quality

Welsh League Division Two: Dinas Powys 0 Newport YMCA 2
by MORLEY WILLIAMS

A MISSED penalty and twice hitting an upright cost Dinas dear against the high flying visitors who showed that bit of quality in front of goal by scoring from two of their three chances in the game.

Dinas started well enough with Robbie Fowler firing over from a Joe Hinds' knock-down followed by Liam Jeremy shooting wide when given another opportunity by Hinds.

Eight minutes into the game and YMCA had their first attack through Oliver Beckett who broke clear on the right before delivering a low cross for Ben Lawrence to side foot into the net from eight yards.

Despite going a goal down Dinas continued to have the majority of possession with the pace of Robbie Fowler in evidence on the right, and it was Fowler who had an opportunity for the equaliser on twenty minutes when his turn and shot forced Gareth Wesson in the YMCA goal to save at the second attempt.

For the visitors Beckett was again the provider, giving Declan Flannagan a shooting chance he fired over the bar.

Dinas's shooting continued to be off-target with Adam Raymond and Richard Yarr both shooting over the bar.

On the stroke of half-time they were denied a penalty when Chris Hinam appeared to be pushed deep in the penalty area with the referee waving away the appeals.

The home side continued to press the visitors who always looked dangerous when they pushed forward, and when they did get their second goal it was almost a carbon copy of the first.

Again Beckett did well on the right before crossing low, but this time it was Aaron Stewart on the end whose shot trickled over the line with a defender desperately trying to get back.

To their credit Dinas didn't let their heads drop and had another penalty appeal turned down before they finally convinced the referee when Fowler was brought down following a mazy run into the area.

Wesson guessed right to push Joe Hinds' penalty past the post. This proved very costly because a goal then would have given them a half-hour to get on terms; even so, two minutes later, Adam Raymond's shot hit an upright before substitute Gareth Tedstone's eighteen yard shot again hit the post.

It was good to see Tedstone back from the injury that had kept him out for nearly three months and his pace up front has been missed.

He could have had a bigger influence on the game with a header and a shot off-target before the end of the game but it was the visitors who ran out winners.

No lack of effort or heart from Dinas in this game but they just needed that bit of quality shown by the visitors in front of goal and they will need to show all of these qualities again next week when they visit Tata Steel who lie third, and one place behind YMCA.

Squad: 1. Dave Burnett, 2. Steve Provis, 3. Chris Hinam, 4. Mike Lewis, 5. Dave Penikett, 6. Will Penikett, 7. Robbie Fowler, 8. Richard Yarr, 9. Joe Hinds, 10.Adam Raymond, 11. Liam Jeremy. Subs: 12. Mark Dunford, 14. Mathew Trottman, 15. Gareth Tedstone, 16. Steffan Davies, 17.

Next game: Welsh League Division Two on Saturday, December 17, Tata Steel v Dinas Powys, kick off 2pm.

For news and fixtures see the club's website: www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk.

Barry RFC move on in SWALEC Cup with good win over Dinas Powys

Barry RFC	29
Dinas Powys RFC	5

NEAR neighbours Dinas Powys visited the Reservoir Field for a further round in the SWALEC Bowl.

The first quarter was of typical local derby standard. Both sides showed much endeavour but play rarely strayed from the middle third of the pitch.

Among the forwards, most active were Jones and McTavish, while Chucas and Ryan stood out in the backs.

From an attacking line-out, the visitors threw to the back and their powerful number eight scored a try near the corner. Although deserved, it was something of a gift since the home defenders were elsewhere.

To their credit, Barry roused themselves immediately to create pressure resulting in a penalty opportunity for Lee. Although kicking from all of 40 metres, he made no mistake.

This spurred Barry into taking the initiative and they began to spread the ball out wide, giving the visiting defence some anxious moments.

The issuing of a yellow card to each side marred proceedings. With half time approaching, Provis scored a good try which was just reward for following up on every scrap of a chance. Lee converted to give Barry a flattering 10 point lead at the turnaround.

By general agreement, the referee was having a good game and proving one of the most efficient officials experienced this season.

Barry put the Dinas Powys line under siege and Luke O'Sullivan got on the score sheet with a short-range try. Lee made no mistake in adding the extras.

With Barry now playing the slope to advantage a further score was inevitable, and it was Hollister who did the honours with another converted try.

With the try scorer and the returning Hunt in the van, the home forwards drove again to the opponents' line and set up camp.

Provis was able to force his way over for the final try of the afternoon; the conversion by Ryan sailing agonisingly wide of the upright.

Despite some shortcomings, there was an obvious willingness in the Barry squad to work hard for each other. It was this attribute that saw them worthy winners of a game that was never going to be easy against a spirited and dangerous opposition.

Barry: Hunt, R O'Sullivan, Hollister, Deguara, McTavish, Parker, L O'Sullivan Jones (captain), Lee, R O'Sullivan, Chucas, Evans, Provis, Adams, Ryan. Replacements: J Williams, King, D Williams, Hurd.

In the last game before Christmas, Barry travel to Wattstown in a league fixture. Kick off is expected to be 2.30pm, but check with your tour operator closer to the day.

CO

SECOND TEAM BACK IN ACTION AFTER PROLONGED BREAK

Barrians forwards fail to break down defensive wall

THE Barrians finally returned to action after almost two months off with a visit to Old Penarthians.

With late withdrawals and first team call ups once again dominating selection, player-manager Ken Chow fielded Andrew Houldey as hooker for the first time, while Tom Poole was put in as scrum-half. Luke Hewitson started as his half-back partner.

In difficult conditions, the Barrians made a steady start. Good close quarter tackling limited the momentum from the home pack, and there were colossal defensive performances from Poole, Rolfe and Moffat.

With fast-flowing, running rugby impossible on a heavy pitch, the Old Pens elected to use the boot of their able fly-half, but full-back Adam Lee coped well under the high ball, regaining territory for his team with good clearing kicks of his own.

The better organisation of the home side, however, eventually told. With the Old Pens camped long in the Barrians' half, a chip through negated the away defence, and after the high ball was poorly fielded, the home side scored a deserved converted try.

The Barrians tried to up their efforts and there was some good ball carrying by the forwards, most notably from Rolfe, Lakin, Thomas and Moffat, but they found the home defence solid and unrelenting.

When the Old Pens eventually regained possession, missed tackles in midfield gifted them another converted try to bring the half time score to 14-0.

Matthew Tobin, James Summerhayes and Luke Bounds all came on at the interval, as the Barrians tried to regain some momentum. All three substitutes made good contributions and there was an obvious improvement in all areas of the field, most notably in the line-out.

In a moment of pure comedy, Tobin received the ball on the wing, juggled with it before carrying it on his back for 15 yards, finally dropping it after being tackled.

After the home side had increased their lead with an unconverted try, prop Jason Thomas came off with an injury, and Chow returned to the field, finding himself in the tight five.

The pack seemed revitalised with his addition for the last 10 minutes, as the Barrians threw everything at the home try line.

Bounds looked to have scored in the corner and evidently grounded the ball, only for the try to be chalked off mysteriously by the referee, before Moffat suffered the same fate as he was held up over the line.

Despite the result, all players showed commendable effort and the performance should be applauded.

Team: Lee, Chow (captain), Parker, Jones, Jenkins, Poole, Hewitson, Thomas, Houldey, Lakin, Moffat, Hall, Betts, Harding, Rolfe. Replacements: Bounds, Summerhayes, Tobin, Boffy.

Man-of-the-match: Poole.

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